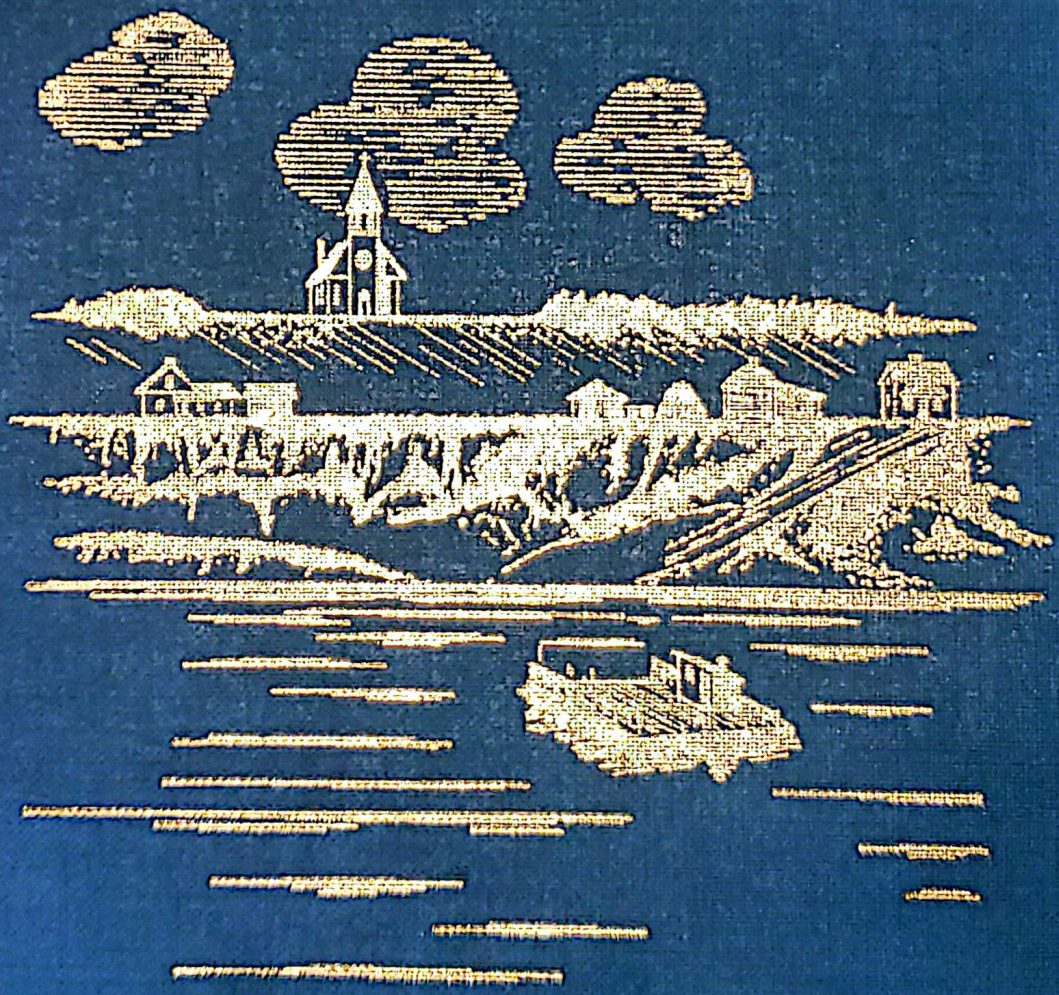
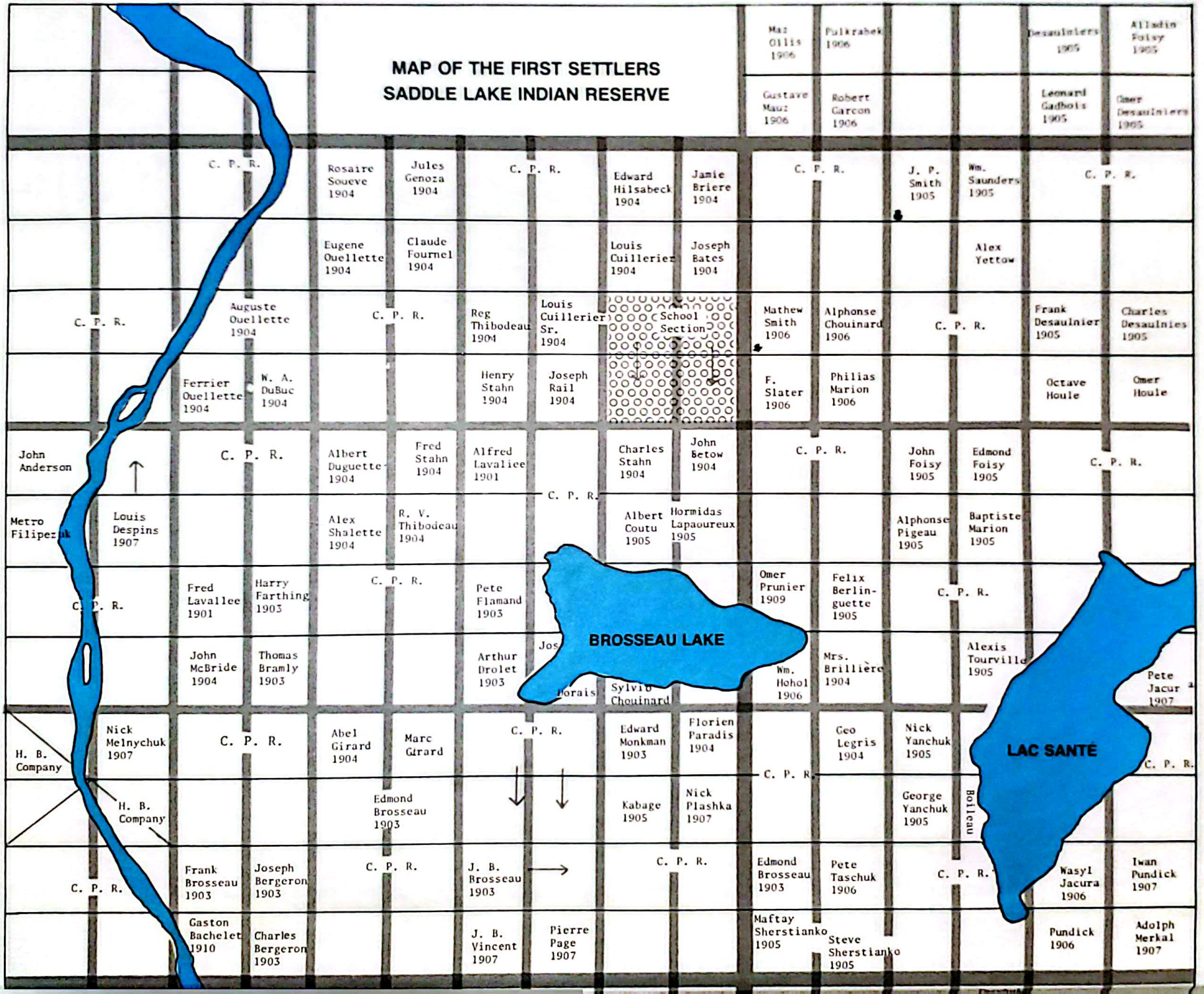
OUR CROSSING



Rivers to Roads

A History of
the Brosseau, Duvernay
and Surrounding Area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SADDLE LAKE INDIAN RESERVE
Max Ollis 1906
Fulkrabek 1906
Desaulniers 1905
Alladin Foisy 1905
Gustave Maur 1906
Robert Garcon 1906
Leonard Gadbois 1905
Omer Desaulniers 1905
C. P. R.
Rosaire Soueve 1904
Jules Genoza 1904
Edward Hilsabeck 1904
Jamie Briere 1904
J. P. Smith 1905
Wm. Saunders 1905
Eugene Ouellette 1904
Claude Fournel 1904
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Joseph Bates 1904
Alex Yettow
Auguste Ouellette 1904
Reg Thibodeau 1904
Louis Cuillerier Sr. 1904
School Section
Mathew Smith 1906
Alphonse Chouinard 1906
Frank Desaulnier 1905
Charles Desaulnies 1905
Ferrier Ouellette 1904
W. A. DuBuc 1904
Henry Stahn 1904
Joseph Rail 1904
F. Slater 1906
Philias Marion 1906
Octave Houle
Omer Houle
John Anderson
Albert Duguette 1904
Fred Stahn 1904
Alfred Lavaliee 1901
Charles Stahn 1904
John Betow 1904
John Foisy 1905
Edmond Foisy 1905
Metro Filipezak
Louis Despins 1907
Alex Shalette 1904
R. V. Thibodeau 1904
Albert Coutu 1905
Hormidas Lapaoureux 1905
Alphonse Pigeau 1905
Baptiste Marion 1905
Fred Lavallee 1901
Harry Farthing 1903
Pete Flamand 1903
Omer Prunier 1909
Felix Berlinguette 1905
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Thomas Bramly 1903
Arthur Drolet 1903
Wm. Hohol 1906
Mrs. Brillière 1904
Alexis Tourville 1905
Pete Jacur 1907
Nick Melnychuk 1907
Abel Girard 1904
Marc Girard
Edward Monkman 1903
Florien Paradis 1904
Geo Legris 1904
Nick Yanchuk 1905
LAC SANTÉ
H. B. Company
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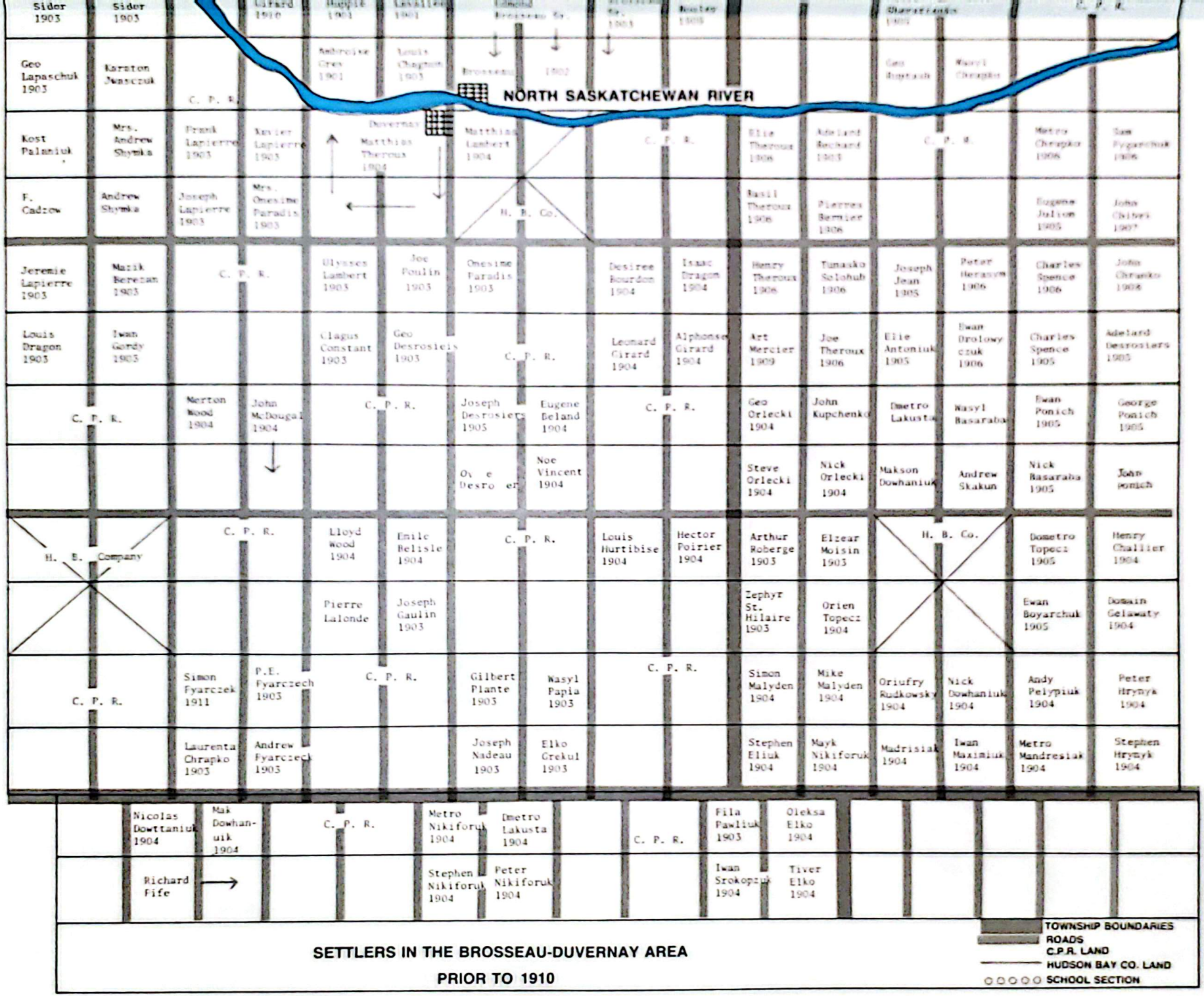
Kabage 1905
Nick Plashka 1907
George Yanchuk 1905
Bolleau
Frank Brosseau 1903
Joseph Bergeron 1903
J. B. Brosseau 1903
Edmond Brosseau 1903
Pete Taschuk 1906
Wasyl Jacura 1906
Iwan Pundick 1907
Gaston Bachelet 1910
Charles Bergeron 1903
J. B. Vincent 1907
Pierre Page 1907
Maftay Sherstianko 1905
Steve Sherstianko 1905
Pundick 1906
Adolph Merkal 1907



SETTLERS IN THE BROSSEAU-DUVERNAY AREA

PRIOR TO 1910

OUR CROSSING

OUR CROSSING

Rivers to Roads

A history of
the Brosseau, Duvernay
and Surrounding Area

Printed 1980 by Co-op Press Ltd.
Edmonton.

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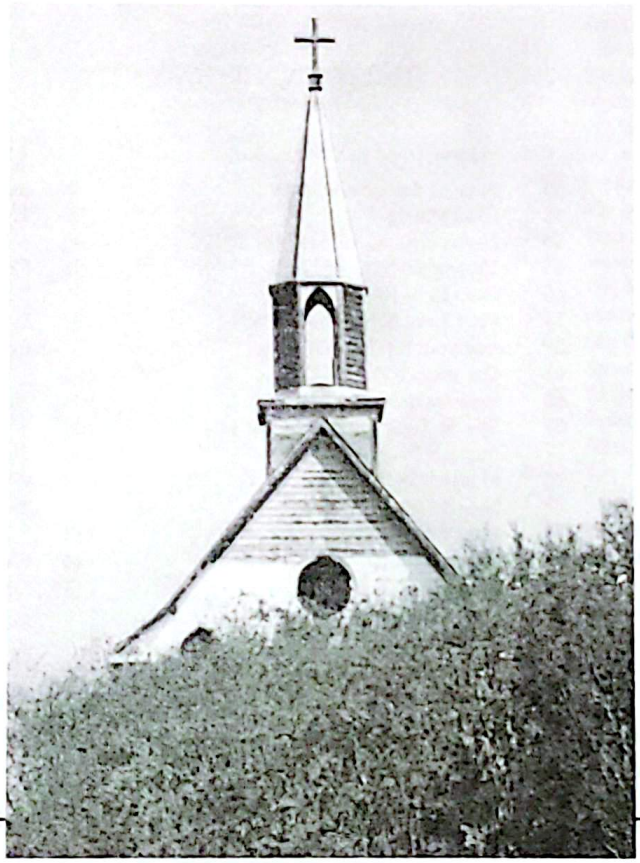
A special note of appreciation is offered to Hector Coutu who was instrumental in the birth of this book and whose untiring research into our history made many of these stories possible.

DEDICATION

This book is dedicated
To the People of the
Brosseau, Duvernay,
and Surrounding Area
To the Indians who were
first on the land
To the Homesteaders who
settled the land and
To the Residents who today
remain on the land



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First bridge from the Duvernay side.

INTRODUCTION

RIVERS TO ROADS

Brosseau church in 1980.

OUR CROSSING

It is 1980. Throughout Alberta people are celebrating 75 years in Confederation. Our modern society wrestles with the ponderous problems of constitutional reforms, provincial rights and a heritage for the future, yet today we are also caught up with the stories of the past, the history of our land. Our celebration is a festival which has no time restraints: 75 years, but there is no beginning and in 75 years, there will be no ending. Each memory we have, or that we share is a crossing back over that 75. Each thought, each dream, each hope is also our bridge to the future. This book is a small record of our crossing.

Today if one travels north along highway 36, going to Ashmont or St. Paul, the black lanes of pavement lie smoothly glazing the undulating terrain. This highway is interrupted on the north side of Two Hills, but after a slight jog east, 36 is headed home. The creeks, the valleys, the rises are scarcely noticed as the road is smooth and curves gently. Only the careful observer watches the changes and wonders about its past. Up over a small rise and slowly the panorama of the great valley comes into view — the historic North Saskatchewan River. One sees the land and the road continuing north, with the river falling between.

On the south side, past the single line of railroad tracks, stands the large soiled-white chemical plant, so incongruous with the natural earth surrounding, so far from other structures. This plant breathes quietly its last breath in the clear morning sun. On the flat below the plant stands the few houses of old Duvernay. On the opposite bank cresting the rise from the river stands the church so much the symbol of our faith in the past and our hope in the future. Between the two banks lies the steel bridge . . . our crossing.

A speed zone down the road indicates Duvernay. Across the river, through the draw on the other side lies the hamlet of Brosseau. The rich land, the warm homes, the modern highway escapes the sense of the past, but the stories are kept alive, an old homestead, an unused road and a memory make history live. The Saddle Lake Indian Reserve just over the next hill, by name alone makes everyone remember and tell "our story".

Years before the settlements of Brosseau and Duvernay were established, the Indians (Cree, Blackfoot, Stoney, Sarcee, Piegan, and Blood) roamed these prairies. The Indians were nomads, not land owners, for they wanted no ties. They were hunters, free to chase the buffalo and trap the game. This was their world.

In winter it was not unusual for the Plains and Wood Cree in this area to camp along the banks of the river. The flat of Brosseau and the lower area west was a most suitable site. When summer came again it was time to move south, to cross the plain in search of the buffalo. About a mile up stream from today's bridge is a natural crossing, this wide shallow bar gave suitable North-South access.

In the other direction, fur traders and explorers were constantly travelling the river. It was the rivers which opened the country. Travel increased and so did the fur trade so the banks became a network of forts and commerce. White man had begun to encroach on the lives of the natives.

After the traders came the missionaries, to civilize the savage. Anglicans, Methodists and Catholics alike all searched to save the native's souls. In the Brosseau area,

Trapping was a common occupation in winter time. Pelts of coyotes, muskrats, beavers, rabbits, squirrels and wolves brought ready cash for families who needed it. Many trappers used dog teams to travel their trap-lines.

to the north, the Methodists made the first converts partially due to the efforts of the McDougall's, but it was the legacy of Father Albert Lacombe, that established the beginning of the true site of Brosseau.

Determined to settle the Cree as he had the Metis in St. Albert, Father Lacombe journeyed through the area in the winter of 1864. With the wisdom of a philosopher, he induced the Indians to choose the Brosseau flat for their meeting place the following spring. Thus in the spring of 1865, Father Lacombe left St. Albert by boat to meet the Cree at the chosen spot. They were waiting. He established the mission St. Paul des Cris. Immediately he tried to introduce farming but as winter came, the Indian braves became restless and he wrote:

> "You will have difficulty forming any idea of the spectacle presented by all these savages to the number of at least a thousand when they crossed the large and rapid Saskatchewan."

Alberta historian and author James MacGregor describes the crossing.

"By means of his (Lacombe's) description we can visualize the great camp of horsemen as they pulled down their teepees, bundled up their possessions and then spread out over a distance of several hundred yards along the river bank, waded in to cross the swiftly flowing stream. Some built rafts, others converted the buffalo hide coverings of their teepees into crude coraeles. Then, loading the family and its possessions on them, a good swimmer holding a raw-hide rope in his teeth, pulled the wobbly craft across the twelve-hundred foot stream."

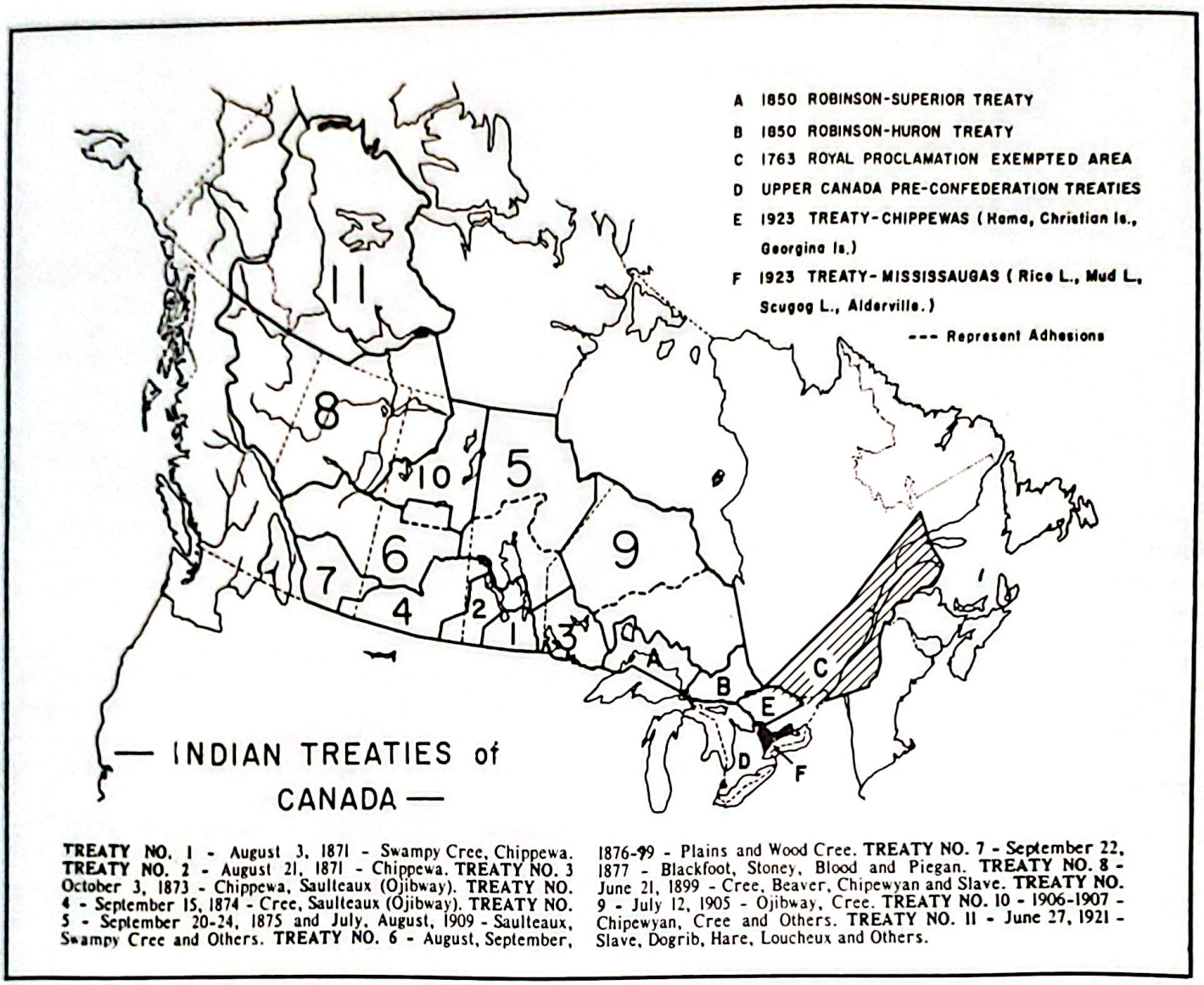
"Next morning on the south shore the real preparations for the journey began; saddling and packing the horses, catching the dogs and loading up both the dog travois that were to carry some baggage and the horse travois on which the sick the aged and some of the children rode. Then, in a remarkably short time, family after family moved off to form themselves into small bands riding with the morning sun on their left as they ascended the gentle slope. Soon, a mile or so away, as Father Lacombe stood looking longingly after them, the last of the great cavalcade disappeared over the ridge."

"To fully comprehend this spectacle one must hear the cries of the crowd and the tumult which they made during the two days it took to transfer the camp to the south side."

Following the missionaries came more settlers. The buffalo, which had been used since about 1830 by the Indians to barter with the white traders, was virtually exterminated in a brief 55 years. An estimated two million bison were killed on the great plains in 1870. By 1874 the southern herds (mostly in the U.S.) were exterminated and after a great slaughter in 1881-82 the northern herds were coming quickly to a similar end. Even the Canadian government legislation of 1893 making it unlawful to kill bison, had no effect, as there was little enforcement.

Provincial Archives — E. Brown Collection

Indian Squaw and Papoose.


A 1850 ROBINSON-SUPERIOR TREATY
B 1850 ROBINSON-HURON TREATY
C 1763 ROYAL PROCLAMATION EXEMPTED AREA
D UPPER CANADA PRE-CONFEDERATION TREATIES
E 1923 TREATY-CHIPPEWAS (Hama, Christian Is., Georgina Is.)
F 1923 TREATY-MISSISSAUGAS (Rice L., Mud L., Scugog L., Alderville.)
--- Represent Adhesions
— INDIAN TREATIES of CANADA —
TREATY NO. 1 - August 3, 1871 - Swampy Cree, Chippewa. TREATY NO. 2 - August 21, 1871 - Chippewa. TREATY NO. 3 October 3, 1873 - Chippewa, Saulteaux (Ojibway). TREATY NO. 4 - September 15, 1874 - Cree, Saulteaux (Ojibway). TREATY NO. 5 - September 20-24, 1875 and July, August, 1909 - Saulteaux, Swampy Cree and Others. TREATY NO. 6 - August, September, 1876-99 - Plains and Wood Cree. TREATY NO. 7 - September 22, 1877 - Blackfoot, Stoney, Blood and Piegan. TREATY NO. 8 - June 21, 1899 - Cree, Beaver, Chipewyan and Slave. TREATY NO. 9 - July 12, 1905 - Ojibway, Cree. TREATY NO. 10 - 1906-1907 - Chipewyan, Cree and Others. TREATY NO. 11 - June 27, 1921 - Slave, Dogrib, Hare, Loucheux and Others.

So with the white man arriving, and the buffalo dying out, life on the Plains had to change. The Indians had to share their land. Initially the Canadian government had no formal policy for this sharing of the land, but through the numbered treaties of 1870 to 1900 a policy was established. It appears that the motivation of the government was one of seeking to forstall potential trouble from the Indians who occupied the sites sought by prospective inhabitants and to do so at the least cost. The Indians did obtain more than was originally offered and credit must be given to the treaty commissioners who showed some understanding of the problems.

The treaty which affected our crossing was Treaty No. 6. This was not an easy treaty to negotiate. Reading through the terms and conditions provides a fascinating perspective of the white mans (governments) respect for the natives. It is significant to note that in all the treaties it was the Indians who had to fight for better conditions. In this treaty all that was sold was the top 6" of soil, and the remainder was the Indians. The treaty was written in legal language and, of course, interpreted to the Indians, under these conditions one cannot but wonder if they knew what was happening.

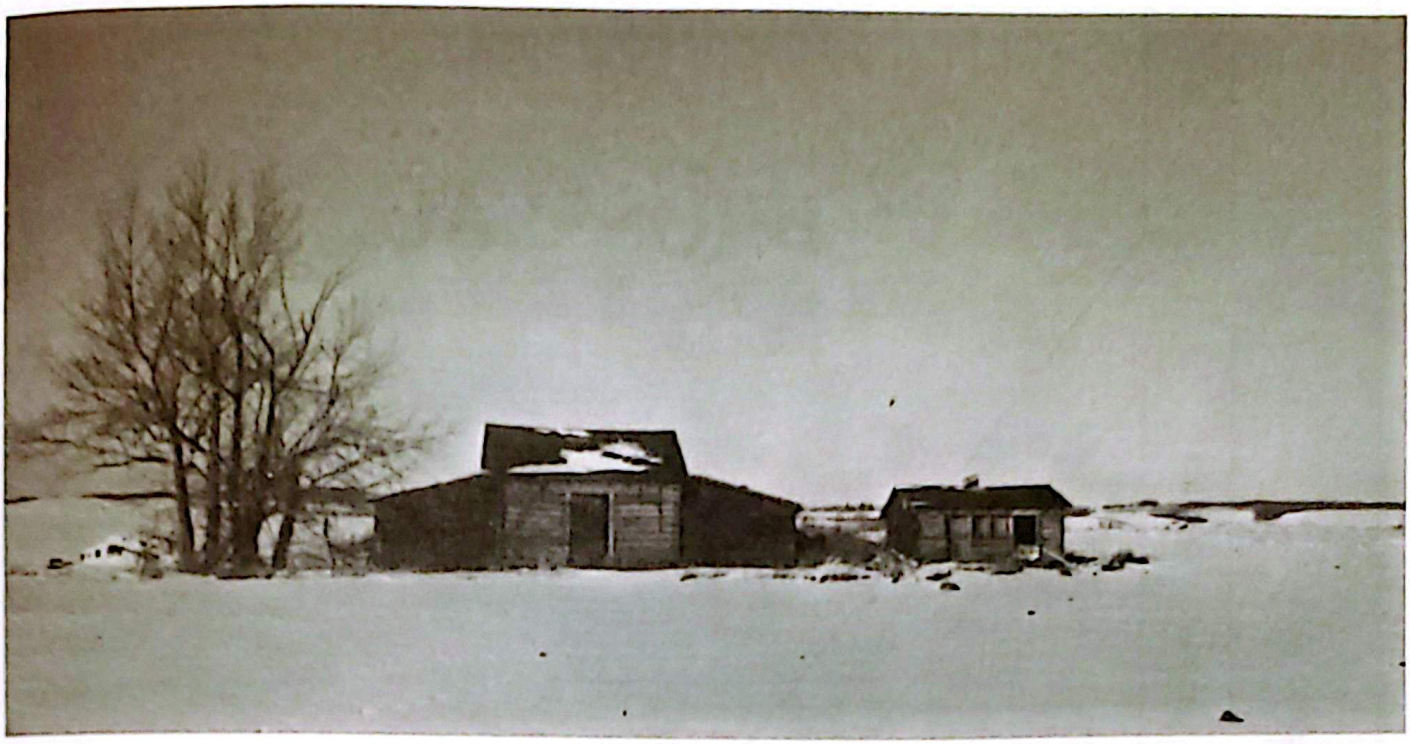
"... All these promises were made and agreed upon at that time. The interpreter Erasmus and the Roman Catholic minister were asked if every word was interpreted as said. They said they were, as both talked fluent Cree. The R.C. Minister had been with the Indians many years already before this treaty came into being.

This priest had said then, "If I have told a lie in this affair I won't last all winter." But he left the Indians ,and on his way to Calgary that winter he took sick and died. So he must have lied in his interpretation, because he had taken something like an oath, that he did not lie at the signing of the treaty, that his interpretation was the exact words of both parties concerned. Maybe they did use the right wording at that time to their best ability, but then Cree was not their native tongue."

— from an interview with Henry Cardinal Sr. speaking of the time of Treaty #6.

It is interesting to note parts of the treaty itself, and what was agreed upon.

"The Plain and Wood Cree Tribes of Indians, and all other Indians inhabiting the district herein after described



and defined, do hereby cede, release, surrender and yield up to the Government of the Dominion of Canada, for Her Majesty the Queen and Her successors forever, all their rights, titles and privileges, whatsoever, to the lands included within the following limits.,"

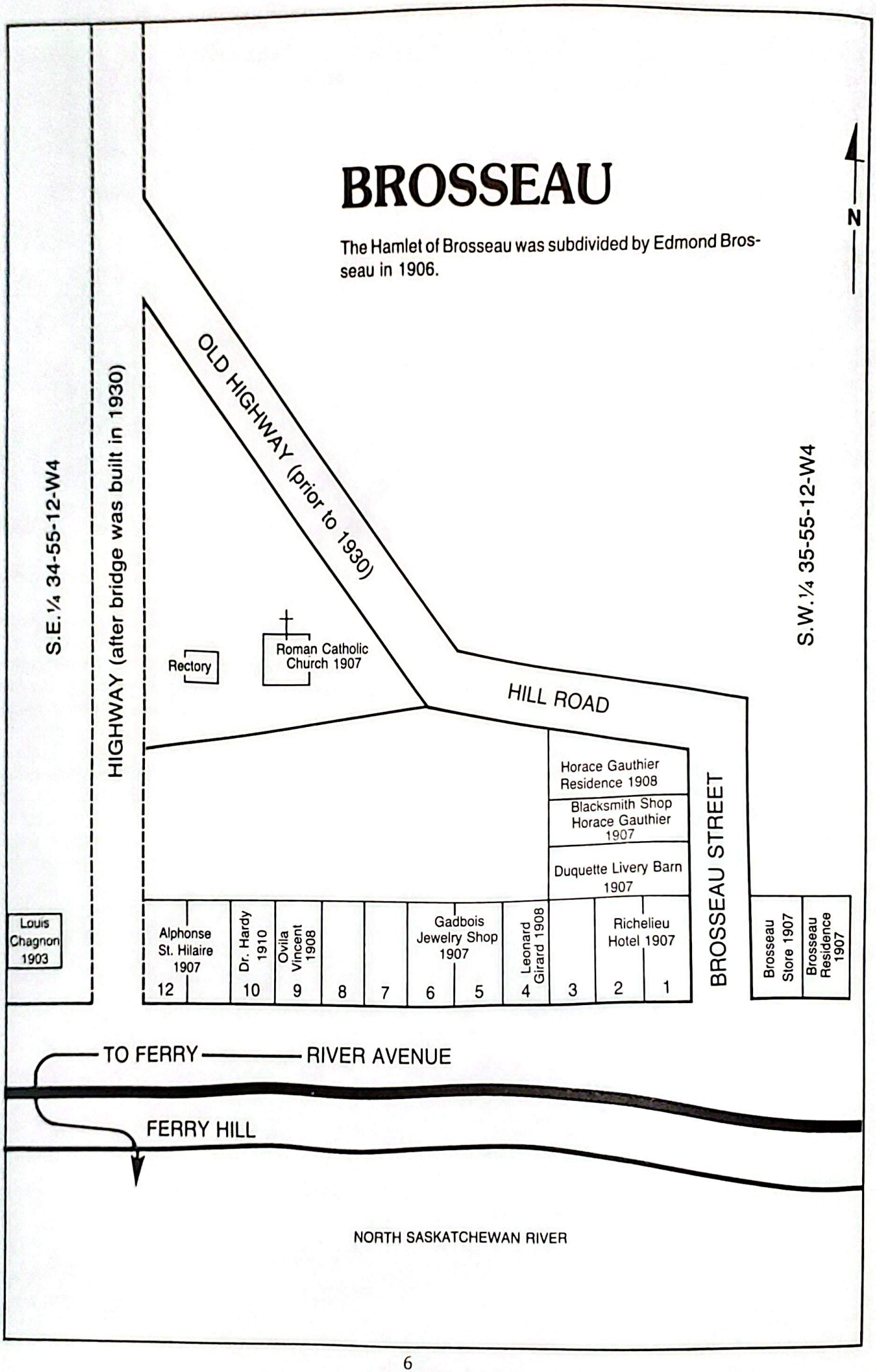
"The tract comprised within the lines above described embracing an area of 121,000 square miles, be the same more or less . . ."

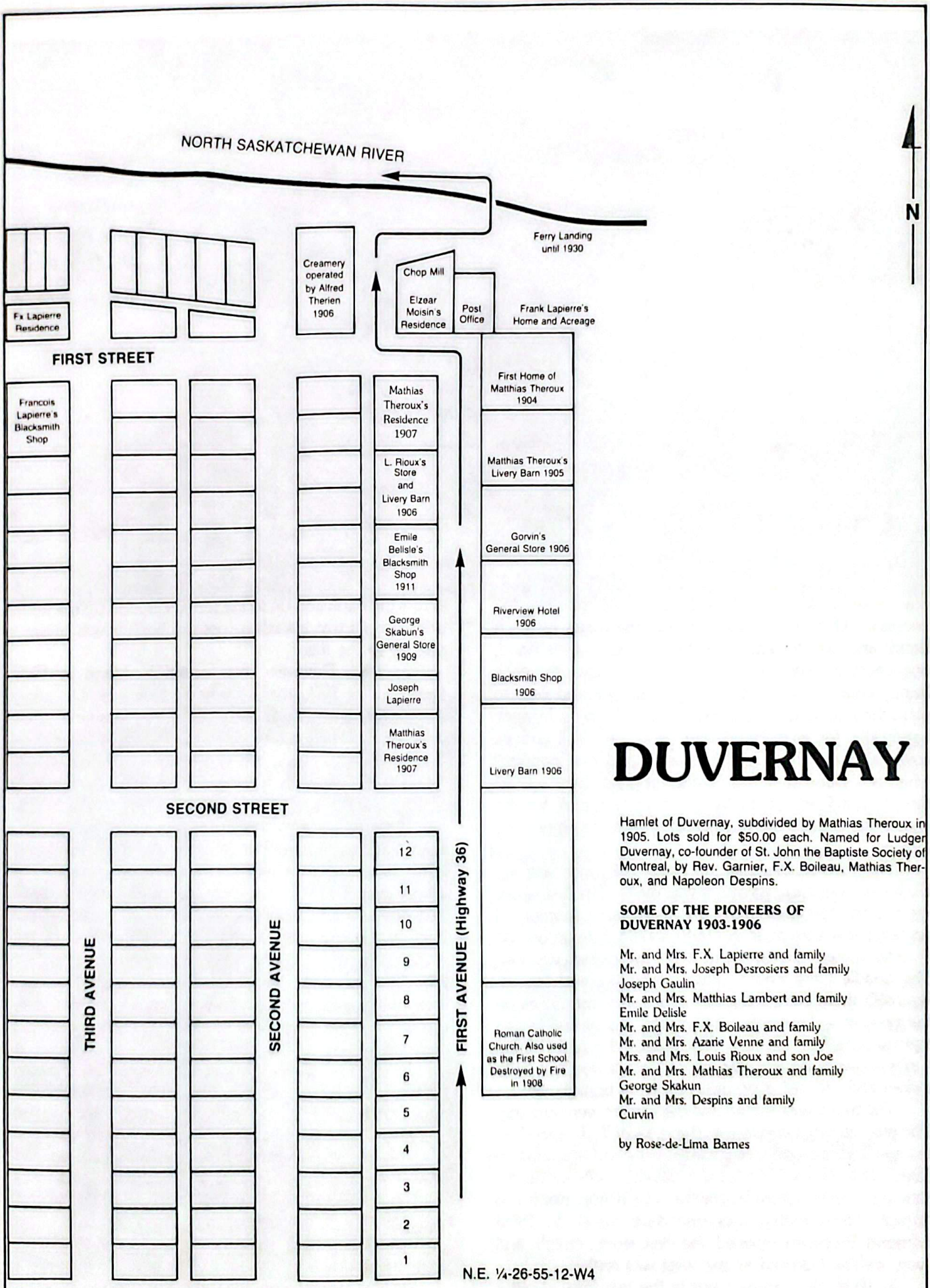
"And Her Majesty the Queen hereby agrees and undertakes to lay aside reserves for farming land . . . all such reserves shall not exceed in all one square mile for each family of five, or in that proportion for larger or smaller families . . . (One is quick to notice that the homesteads sold for $10.00 a quarter and could thus be as sparsely populated as 4 per square mile, plus special allowances and schools.)

". . . Her Majesty's Commissioners shall, . . . pay to each Indian person the sum of $5.00 per head yearly.

"It is further agreed between Her Majesty and the said Indians, that the following articles shall be supplied to any Band of the said Indians who are now cultivating the soil, or who shall hereafter commence to cultivate the land, that is to say; Four hoes for every family actually cultivating; also, two spades per family as aforesaid; one plough for every three families, as aforesaid; one harrow for every three families; as aforesaid; two scythes and one wet stone, and two hay forks and two reaping hooks, for every family as aforesaid, and also two axes; and also

Ox drawn buggy, people unknown.


BROSSEAU
The Hamlet of Brosseau was subdivided by Edmond Brosseau in 1906.
N
S.E.¼ 34-55-12-W4
HIGHWAY (after bridge was built in 1930)
OLD HIGHWAY (prior to 1930)
S.W.¼ 35-55-12-W4
Rectory
Roman Catholic Church 1907
HILL ROAD
BROSSEAU STREET
Horace Gauthier Residence 1908
Blacksmith Shop Horace Gauthier 1907
Duquette Livery Barn 1907
Louis Chagnon 1903
Alphonse St. Hilaire 1907
Dr. Hardy 1910
Ovila Vincent 1908
Gadbois Jewelry Shop 1907
Leonard Girard 1908
Richelieu Hotel 1907
Brosseau Store 1907
Brosseau Residence 1907
12
10
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
TO FERRY
RIVER AVENUE
FERRY HILL
NORTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER



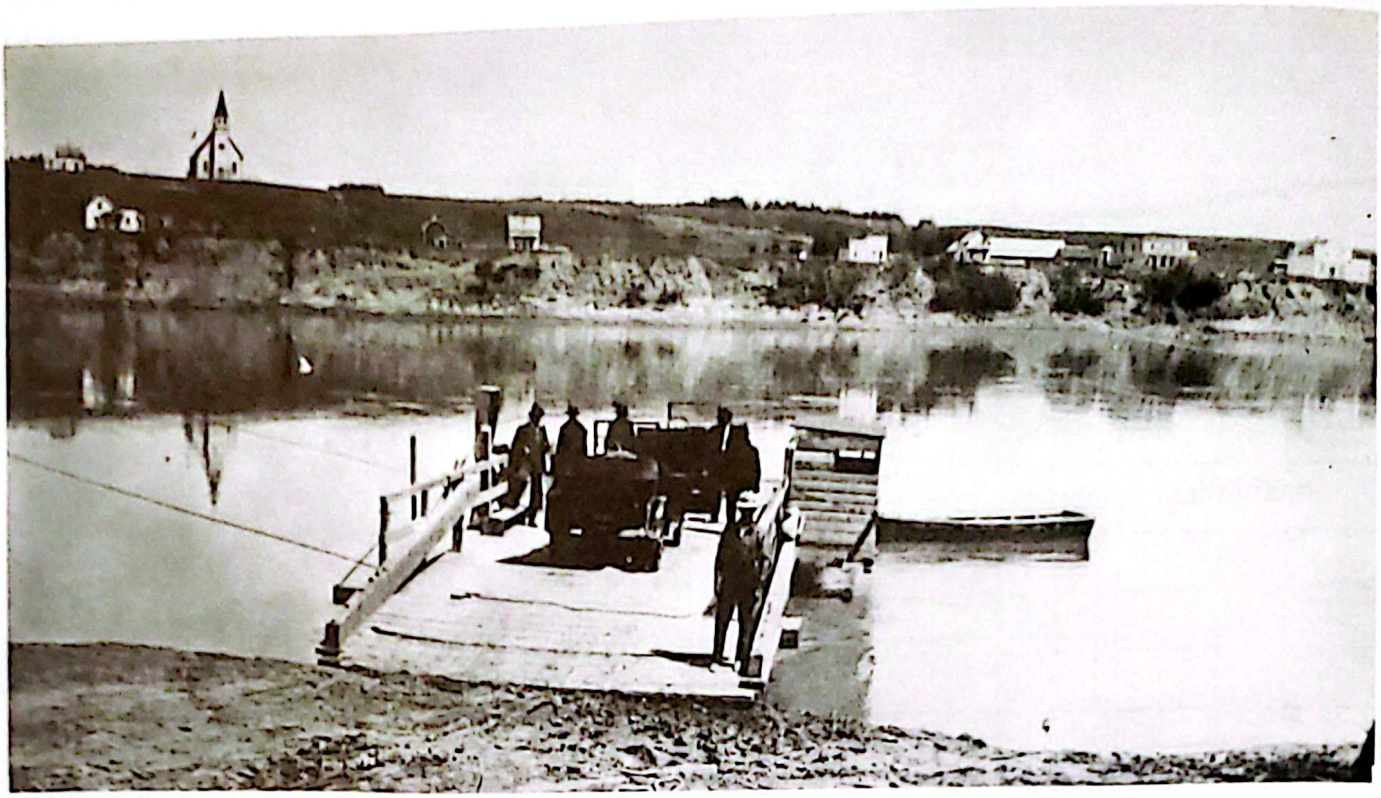
DUVERNAY

Hamlet of Duvernay, subdivided by Mathias Theroux in 1905. Lots sold for $50.00 each. Named for Ludger Duvernay, co-founder of St. John the Baptiste Society of Montreal, by Rev. Garnier, F.X. Boileau, Mathias Theroux, and Napoleon Despins.

SOME OF THE PIONEERS OF DUVERNAY 1903-1906

Mr. and Mrs. F.X. Lapierre and family
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Desrosiers and family
Joseph Gaulin
Mr. and Mrs. Matthias Lambert and family
Emile Delisle
Mr. and Mrs. F.X. Boileau and family
Mr. and Mrs. Azarie Venne and family
Mrs. and Mrs. Louis Rioux and son Joe
Mr. and Mrs. Mathias Theroux and family
George Skakun
Mr. and Mrs. Despins and family
Curvin

by Rose-de-Lima Barnes



Basil Theroux taking a load across the river on the new ferry in 1912.

one crosscut saw, one hand saw, one pit-saw, the necessary files, one grindstone and one auger for each Band; and also for each Chief for the use of his Band, one chest of ordinary carpenter's tools; also, for each Band, enough of wheat, barley, potatoes and oats to plant the land actually broken up for cultivation by such band; also for each Band four oxen, one bull and six cows; also one boar and two sows and one handmill when any Band shall raise sufficient grain therefore. All the aforesaid articles to be given once for all for the encouragement of the practice of agriculture among the Indians."

The reserve became the center of much activity. Each year the treaty payment was made. The first years, the Indians had never seen so much paper money. Of course, there were no stores outside of Ft. Edmonton and Ft. Pitts in the first years so much of this money was lost. The Saddle Lake Reserve was established and fenced. By 1895 there were most of the government offices on the reserve — land office, telegraph, school and Indian agency. The first churches (both Methodist and Roman Catholic) were on the reserve and much business both Indian and otherwise occurred in those boundaries.

The treaty was signed and the settlers were arriving. The river crossing was South Band, N.W.T. The land on the south shore was surveyed in 1895 and the north in 1904. This allowed for greater development by homesteaders. The trail from Vegreville, a CPR stop, north was busiest. The crossing was one days travel. In 1903 Edmond Brosseau opened the first store. Hotels and livery stables followed as the west was settled.

In 1904 Mr. Lambert put in the first ferry about a half mile west of the present bridge. Down the road across the bank and on to the ferry. Then off on the north side, again it was a slash across the bank which brought one up to the flats.

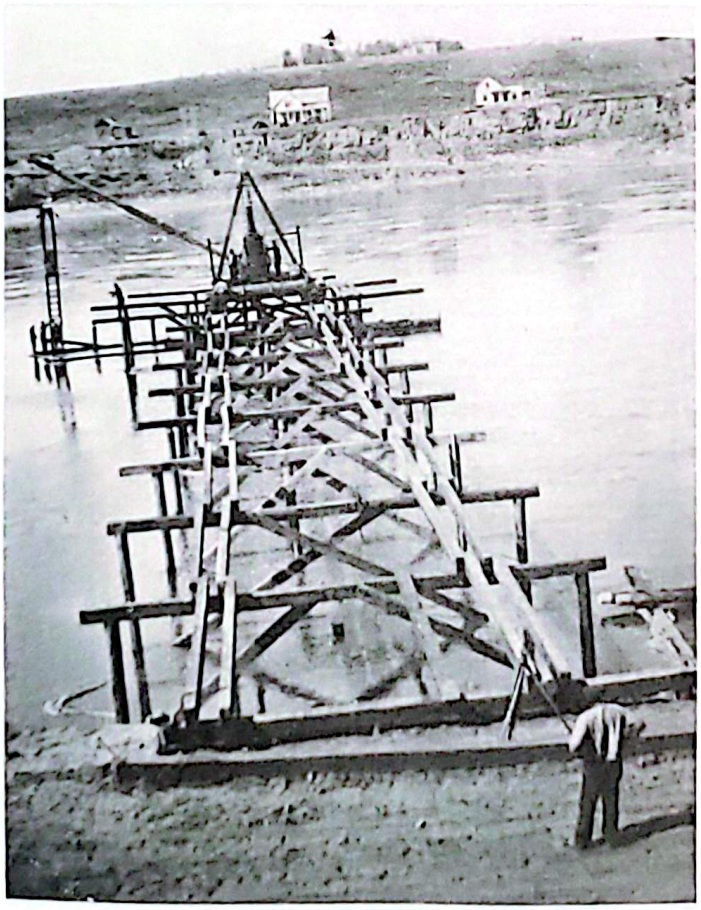
In 1905 Duvernay was established and in 1907 Brosseau. In 1906 mail was hauled through Duvernay and Brosseau to St. Paul and Cold Lake. Duvernay grew to accommodate the travellers, and the River View Hotel was built in that year. Many of these early details are found in the pages that follow. Suffice it to say the early 1900's saw the settlement of this part of the west.

But time, as it always does, moved on, river traffic slowed and the automobile replaced the carts. The travel north increased even more, as more people came. The school district 1776-Champlain was established in 1910 and pressure was being exerted to have a railroad put through. Lessard argued long and hard for this route but it was not until 1926 when the CPR spur went into Two Hills that the issue was finally settled and Brosseau-Duvernay would again see major changes. Grain elevators in Two Hills meant that this area was again, mainly a crossing.

In 1930 the increased traffic warrented the building of the first bridge across the North Saskatchewan anywhere between Edmonton and North Battleford. This bridge kept people moving through these hamlets even faster. The 1937 highway between Vegreville and St. Paul, completed in 1938 made the present system of roads virtually complete. In 1958 this old bridge was to be replaced with the present bridge and the bend in the road eliminated by a cut through the hill, and the sight which is seen today.

As time marched on, the last major effort to maintain a residential community occurred in 1952 with the

Ferry on Duvernay side.

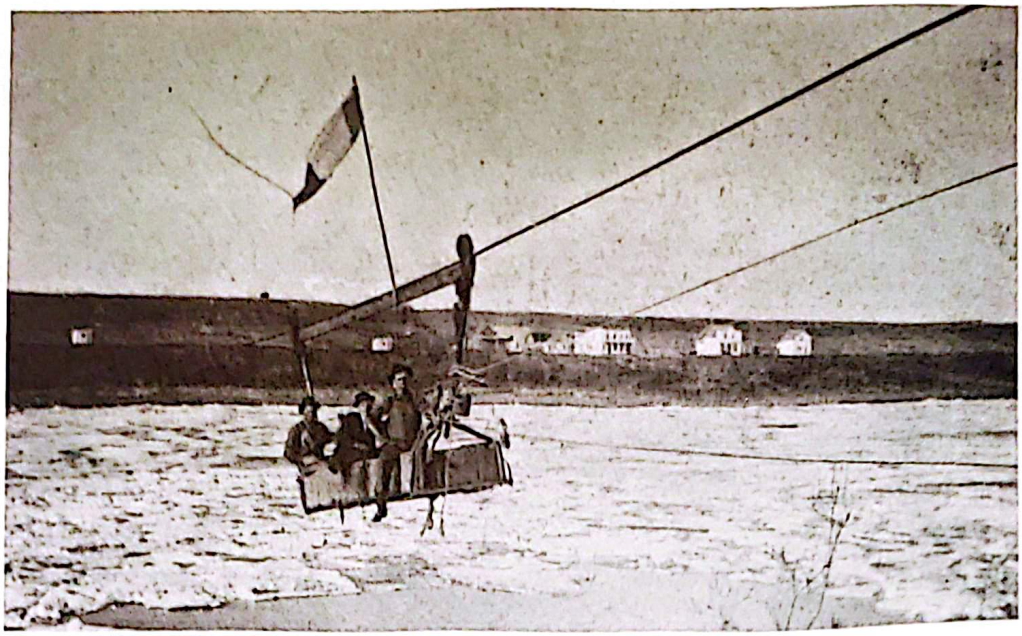


Start of bridge construction in 1930.

corroboration of government and industry in the erection of the Two Hills Chemical Plant. This plant produced caustic soda and chlorine. Major expansions occurred in 1955 and 1962 but in 1980 the plant was sold and closed. No significant secondary industry has been established in the area.

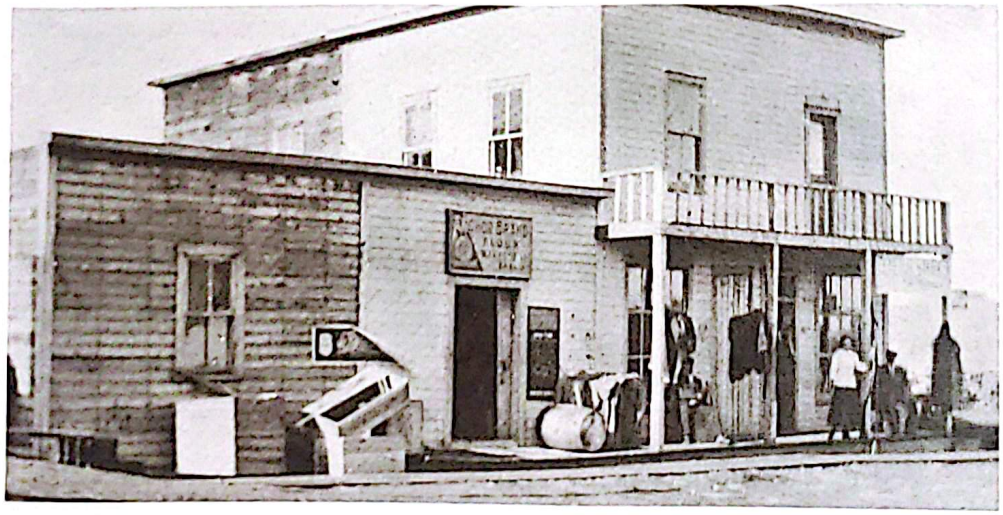
Today the post office is at Brosseau, the church on the hill rings out the memories of the passing time. The bridge is well used. Beside the church overlooking the valley is an old house. There lives one of the early pioneers of the district. His father homesteaded north of Brosseau and he has lived there all his life. His sons now carry on the tradition. Each day he looks out his front window and sees the sun. He sees the bridge and he remembers this crossing. As he watches the cars speed down the hill across the bridge, he knows it was not always so. There was a time when people stopped at "Our Crossing." It is his memories, and those of all the men and women who have been to this river, along this road that make this book and continue.

OUR CROSSING



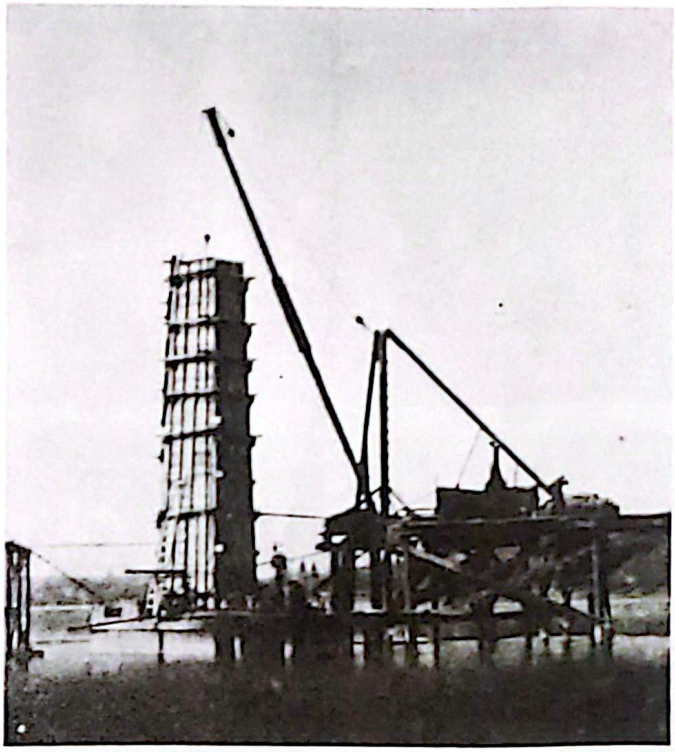
BRIDGES — Old and New

View of town of Brosseau in 1910. From left to right, Dr. Hardy, Ovilla Vincent, Gadbois's Jewelery Shop, Duquette's Livery Barn, Richelieu Hotel, Brosseau's General Store and Alphonse Brosseau's residence.



Mathias Theroux General Store, built where the Riverview Hotel is today, in 1905 and bought and operated by J.S. Aucoin in 1917.

Ferry crossing the river in 1930.

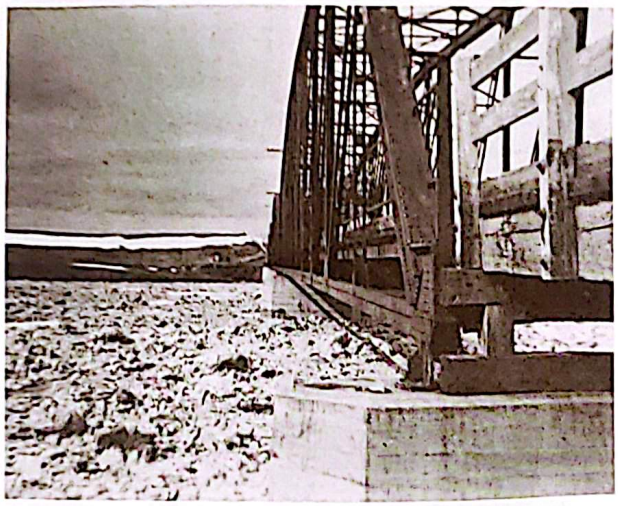


Construction of frame for the pier of the bridge built in 1930.

Ferry crossing the river and
bridge construction in 1930.

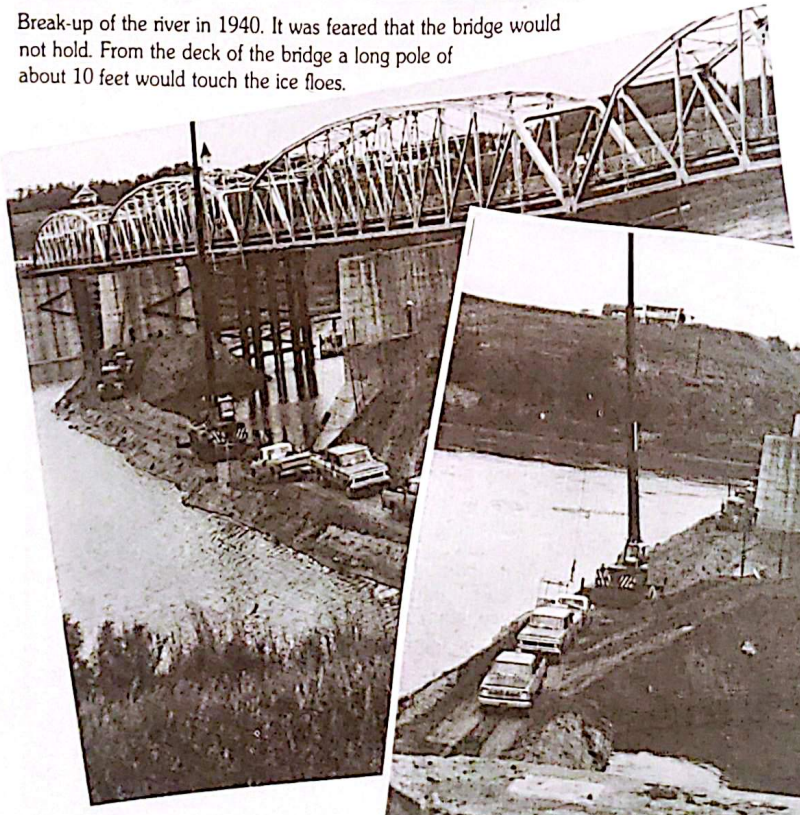
Main Street of Duvernay in 1931. Joe Rioux's old 1928
International one ton truck, on the street.

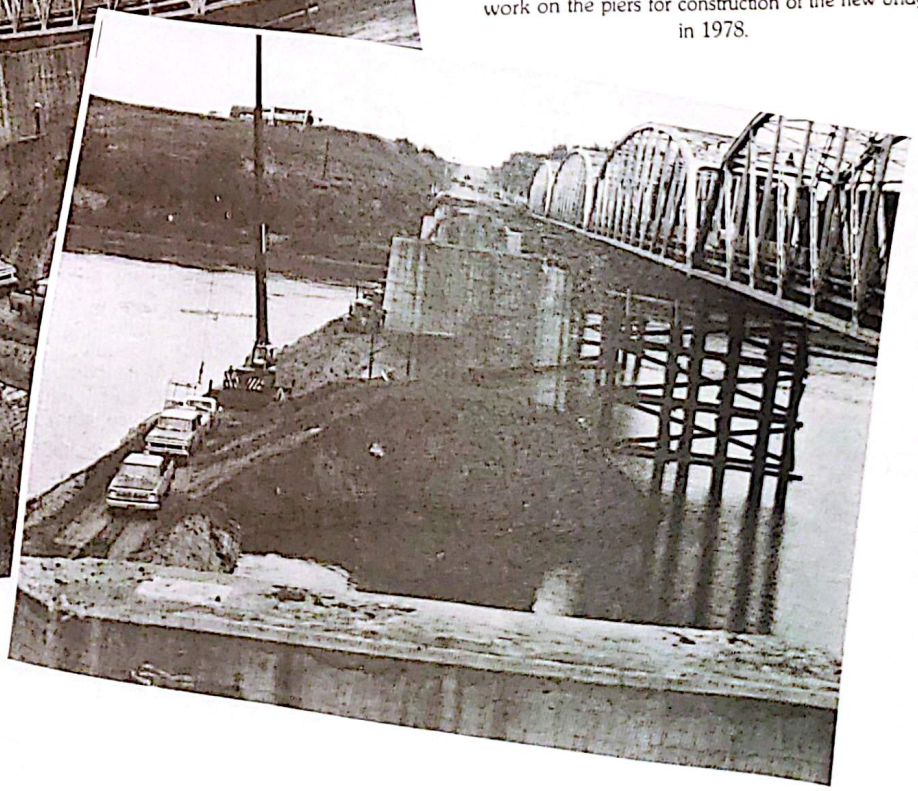
Completed bridge in 1931.



Break-up of the river in 1940. It was feared that the bridge would not hold. From the deck of the bridge a long pole of about 10 feet would touch the ice floes.

View of Brosseau-Duvernay Bridge during 1952 break-up.





Causeway built in the river so the workmen could work on the piers for construction of the new bridge in 1978.

Saddle Lake Church built in 1899.

THE HISTORY OF SADDLE LAKE

HISTORY OF SADDLE LAKE BAND TO 1900

by Ken Tyler

The Saddle Lake region seems to have been on the border between the Chipewyan and Blackfoot Indians when the first whitemen entered the district almost 300 years ago. About 50 years later, Crees from what is now Saskatchewan, aided by the guns which they had received from the fur traders, began to move west, displacing the Blackfoot and the Chipewyans and gaining control of the area. Before long the newly-arrived Crees were living in peace with the Chipewyan, but the Blackfoot did not forget so easily. And as late as the 1850's Peter Erasmus reports that Blackfoot raiders had killed several Saddle Lake Crees just across the river from where the reserve is now situated.

The people lived by hunting and trapping in the winter on the land north of Saskatchewan, but in the summer moved south onto the plains to hunt the buffalo. Often they would join with the Metis people of St. Albert and Lac St. Anne for this purpose, as well as with Crees of the tribes to the west of them. The Saddle Lake peoples' winter hunting and trapping grounds were probably from what is now Waskatenau on the west to perhaps what is now Elk Point on the east and from the Beaver River on the north to the North Saskatchewan River on the south. In addition to this, the Cree tribes to the west, that is Passpasschase's, Enoch's, Alexander's, and Michel's Bands, seem to have acknowledged that the head Chief at Saddle Lake had some authority over them.

Mrs. Bill Half tanning a deer hide while her husband looks on.

Methodist missionaries visited the Indians of Saddle Lake quite early, certainly before 1850. By 1855, one of the members of the Whitefish Lake Band, H.B. Steinhauer, was an ordained Methodist minister and an educated man — for those times at least.

By the 1870's there were two distinct Bands in this district. One, under Chief Little Hunter had as it's home base, an area including the present Saddle Lake Reserve. The other, under Chief James Seenum (Pakan) was centered around Whitefish and Goodfish Lakes. At first Little Hunter was apparently the most important of the two Chiefs. When the transfer of the North-West from the Hudson's Bay Company to Canada took place in 1870, several of the Cree Chiefs became concerned that their rights were being forgotten. Through the Hudson's Bay factor at Edmonton, they sent a letter to the Governor of the North-West at Fort Garry (Winnipeg) demanding an explanation for the change, and requesting assistance and instruction in farming, measures to keep the peace with the Blackfeet, and protection from the disease epidemics which were hurting them so severely. Among the Chiefs sending this letter, was Little Hunter, who made it clear that he wished to be considered as a Great Chief. When Commissioner Alexander Morris arrived at Fort Pitt to negotiate Treaty 6, he referred to Little Hunter as a leading Chief of the Plains Cree, while James Seenum was simply described as the Chief of the Whitefish Lake Band.

However, about this time, a change was taking place, and Pakan began to rise in importance while Little Hunter declined. Both Chiefs agreed to Treaty 6 without much protest. Little Hunter had journeyed to Fort Carleton in Saskatchewan to listen to the terms of the Treaty in advance and to get the opinions of more eastern Crees. He returned believing that the Treaty terms should be accepted. James Seenum agreed, in general but wanted the terms improved. His band had been given some poor farm equipment by the missionaries, and it was now worn out. He believed that if the government was serious about helping the Indian people to farm, it should give them some good farm outfits. To this, Governor Morris agreed.

But Seenum also wanted a huge reserve of well over one thousand square miles for his band, and for all the Crees who would not take a reserve immediately, but would prefer to stay with the old ways of hunting and trapping for some few years. Mr. Morris told the Chief he could not promise this, but that he would take the request to Ottawa, although he was certain it would be refused. Apparently, Chief Seenum misunderstood the Governor's answer, and for many years after believed he had been promised the large reserve for which he had asked.

In the winter, the Chiefs assigned a trapline area to each family, and the members of the bands did not wander too much, but in the summer the buffalo hunts sometimes carried them far from the end of the 1870's

when the buffalo were becoming hard to find and the people had to wander farther and farther south to hope to kill any at all. This is probably why James Seenum's Band was paid in two groups in 1879. One at Whitefish Lake and the other at Sounding Lake with many other Bands of Crees. The split was not permanent, however.

In 1880 Little Hunter's Band split into three groups. Perhaps the change in living conditions caused by the disappearance of the buffalo had something to do with this as well. One group stayed with Little Hunter at Saddle Lake. Another large group under Blue Quill selected the area around Egg Lake (now Whitford Lake, near Andrew) to be their future reserve and home, while a third and smaller group under Muskegwatic, chose to locate at what is now Waskatenau, on what later came to be the Wahsatanow reserve.

No reserve could be surveyed for some time, however, since the Department of Indian Affairs was still faced with Chief James Seenum's insistance that he had been promised the large reserve mentioned above.

At last, in 1884, Chief Seenum, with Peter Erasmus as interpreter, travelled to Regina to see the Indian Commissioner and settle the issue. In the end the Chief got some extra land, but very little. What was more important, Pakan decided that while Whitefish and Goodfish Lakes were good areas for fishing, farming was better near Saddle Lake. So, the Chief asked that only a small part of his reserve be given at the former place (just enough to take in the farms and houses already in existence), but that the greater part of his reserve be given right next to Little Hunter's land on the east, where the soil was rich, and good for farming. This the Indian Commissioner agreed to.

By 1886, the Government of Canada was on an economy drive, at least with regard to the Indian Department in the west. One way in which they hoped to save money was to persuade many of the bands to take their reserves in one place and thereby avoid the cost of shipping rations and supplies from one reserve to another, as well as the costs of building more schools, paying more farm instructors and so on. The Indian Agent in Victoria (now called Pakan), J. A. Mitchell, was successful in persuading Chief Blue Quill to move from Egg Lake back to Saddle Lake, in keeping with this policy. In doing so, Agent Mitchell promised that Blue Quills Band would have 30 acres of land broken for them at Saddle Lake, be given six cows, and compensation for the house a band member had built at Egg Lake. In addition, the Agent promised that Blue Quill would retain his position as headman and that his band would be dealt with as separate from the other Saddle Lake people. This last promise does not seem to have been kept.

That same year, surveyor John C. Nelson laid out the Saddle Lake reserve. It contained 115 square miles all as one unit; the Blue Quill, Little Hunter, and James Seenum's Bands were not given separate portions of the land. In addition, a reserve of 17½ square miles was surveyed for the remainder of the James Seenum Band at Goodfish and Whitefish Lakes. The Wahsatanow

Cree Indian.

people could not be persuaded to move to Saddle Lake, so they received their own reserve of 12½ square miles that same year.

Government pressure to move smaller Bands to Saddle Lake was still strong, however, In 1893, Bishop Grandin wrote to the Federal Government asking for help for the Beaver Lake Band, but he was told that it was Government policy to have the Band move and settle down to farm at Saddle Lake, and unless they would do so they would not be helped very much. The Beaver Lake Indians never did move, but the Government was more successful at Wahsatanow.

On that reserve, there was a great deal of resistance by many in the Band to moving from their homes. But Government pressure was strong, and some elders tell us that at one point the agent took away all of the Band's cattle, and physically assaulted one of the Headmen (Matooch or Crier) in order to get them to move. At last in 1896, the Band surrendered their reserve, in exchange for land to be added on to the north end of the Saddle Lake Reserve, and to be known as the Cache Lake Reserve #125A. In area, this addition comprised about fourteen square miles. At first, the Wahsatanow people were considered a separate Band, but in 1900 an agreement was entered into between some members of this band and the Saddle Lake people, that they would all be considered as one Band, although, apparently, there are Wahsatanow people who, to this day insist that they should have been left as a separate band.

HISTORY OF SADDLE LAKE

by Isabel Steinhauer

A long time ago in the 1800's "a man became chief by virtue of his accomplishments in battle, his ability as a leader, his liberality, his capacities as an orator and executive". He was assisted by his councillors, the minor chiefs and headmen.

Band divisions and their locations depended largely on the habitat of wild game. Bands associated with this area included Little Hunter's band whose territory included the lands of the present Saddle Lake Reserve, and a band under Chief James Seenum (Pakan) whose territory centered around Whitefish Lake and Goodfish lake. Reserves were surveyed in 1886.

The Indian Agent played a very big role in the affairs of the reserve. He was directly involved in many aspects of the Indian reserve's operations. Also the 1925 surrender was to a large extent carried out with the direct involvement of the Indian agent.

The Indian Agent to a large extent was successful in integrating the Indians into the White Man's way of life.

Chief of all four bands, Chief James Eenum's (Pakan), Chief Little Hunter's, Chief Blue Quill and Chief Muskegwatic's had amalgamated with joint interests in I.R. #125, 125A, and 128. The present Saddle Lake Band is the result of an amalgamation with these four Indian bands.

May, 1910, the entire Saddle Lake Reserve was fenced and completed in the spring of 1911.

1914 — Outbreak of World War I. Nine (9) men from Saddle Lake and Goodfish Lake enlisted in armed forces and navy, and enhancing to their loyalty, and love for their country:

SADDLE LAKE POSTMASTERS

Saddle Lake (NAME OF OFFICE) — Vegreville Alta. (ELECTORAL DISTRICT AND PROVINCE)

DATE OF ESTABLISHMENT— 1-7-1893. OFFICE CLOSED— 29-1-1955

OFFICE RE-OPENED—

CHANGES IN NAME

FORMER NAME ..... DATE OF CHANGE .....

NAME OF POSTMASTER	MILITARY STATUS	DATE OF BIRTH	DATE OF APPOINTMENT	DATE OF VACANCY	
Napoleon Potvin			1-7-1893	May 1896	
John Ross.			1-6-1896	18-5-97	
Wm. Gibbald			1-9-97	25-6-1900	
Geo. D. Mann			1-10-1900	14-11-06	
J. Batty			1-7-06	25-11-11	
J. W. Carroll.	declines.				
Samuel Whitford			Aug. 1911	21-2-13	
Chas. E. Hughes			1-11-13	July 17	
W. G. Gullion			23-7-17	31-3-21	
F. D. Taylor			1-11-21	15-5-22	
C. F. Sowers			22-5-22	27-3-23	
W. G. Gullion			16-5-23	27-11-27	
Wilfred J. B. Ball.			21-6-27	13-10-31	
Wm. Edward Gullion		19-11-1882	25-11-1931	22-10-1940	R.C.A.F.
Stephen Alexander Chief	R.C.A.F.	6-8-1884	28-12-40	Acting	
Wm. Peter Boulton Pugh	R.C.A.F.	28-1-1898	30-11-41	10-10-44	Res.
James Arthur Steinhauer		25-12-1892	1-1-45	Acting	
James Arthur Steinhauer		25-12-1892	22-1-45	24-4-46	Res.
Lucie Wood	R.C.A.F.	Aug 1897	25-12-45	Acting	
Mark Ernest Steinhauer		11-2-1894	1-11-46	Acting	
Mark Ernest Steinhauer	R.C.A.F.	11-2-1894	10-10-46	18-6-51	Res.
[illegible]		1-5-1926	2-7-51	Acting	
Mrs. Margaret Makokis		1-5-1920	1-11-51	28-5-54	
Simon Memmook		27-12-1896	25-7-54	7-2-55	Office closed 29-1-1955
Ruby Makokis			1974		Discontinued Postal Remedy.
Walter Steinhauer			1976		Solberg, P.M. Res. 7-2-55.
Ruby Makokis			Sept. 1979		

P. S. 33—15700—9-1-40

Jean-Marie Large
Ennis Makokis
Frank Makokis
Joseph Quinn — killed in action
Louis Wood
Ned Seenum
Mark Steinhauer
Peter Steinhauer

1919 — Harsh winter, many valuable livestock died due to the shortage of feed, reserve people also endured hardships and suffering.

1920 — An outbreak of influenza, a large population of Saddle Lake people were greatly affected, many died.

A steady influx of white settlers surrounded the reserve lands wild game quickly decreased as a result of competition for food supply.

— farming was of importance to reserve people

— reserve people worked for white farmers in their initial stages of farming.

— they contributed to the early development of the farming industry in surrounding area.

1925 — the Saddle Lake Band surrendered 18,720 acres of invaluable lands to the Soldier Settlement Board and the St. Paul Board of Trade.

1929 — oblates asked Chief Louis Cardinal if they could move Blue Quills school to its present site, near St. Paul, the chief agreed.

Many people (former students) of Saddle Lake have rather profound memories of their school days at Blue Quills, which was under control of the clergy and grey nuns. Father LaTour was the first principal.

1930 — depression or Dirty 30's.

— people on the reserve endured similiar hardships

— the money had very little value

— the Department of Indian Affairs gave out rations of buffalo, elk meat, flour, sugar to assist many needy families.

Treaty Commemorating 1976.

TREATY DAYS

Treaty Days was an annual event that took place in the early part of July, lasting for about one week.

There were sporting events for every age group, horse races, a small rodeo, and an old time dance in the evening.

These days have since gone by with the introduction of automobiles, and mobile homes.

Historically, not much transpired from the early thirties up to the late fifties.

In year '67 and '68, 12,725 acres of virgin land was broken for agriculture purposes. The project was processed through A.R.D.A. this land has since been reverted back to the land owners, and some is leased to the band farm.

Electricity was introduced to almost every home, in April of 1965.

Treaty Time — Ghost Dance
About 1933.

Judging Parade Costumes. Treaty Time 1932. From the left, William Delver, ? , Edward Cardinal, Mrs. Edward Cardinal, ?, Indian from Frog Lake. In the foreground is Judge Reuben Bull.

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Ennis Makokis
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Howard and Jean Cardinal dressed in native costumes for Treaty 1976.

September of this year it will be eight years since construction started on our recreation complex, where the Administrtion offices, recreation complex, facilities and other service programs for the community are located.

In 1968 the first Tribal Administrator was Charles E. Wood.

First payment for gas royalties were issued on November 15, 1976. In this circumstance, this alone had created extensive employment for the people, as approximately 90% of able bodied men are employed.

As of February 29, 1980, the population for both Goodfish Lake and Saddle Lake was 3,539 approximately two thirds of this population are residing in Saddle Lake. As the population is increasing each year, a 25 year community master plan is under development to create a stable foundation in all aspects of the reserve's economy, employment and finance for the people and future generations of the reserve.

Certainly through the sound leadership of the Chief and Council with the people, Saddle Lake should be proud of their reserve in the progress it has achieved in the last decade.

In the upcoming years the Saddle Lake Band will meet some obstacles along the way, they will make mistakes (who doesn't?) but with people working together, planning together, walking hand in hand, shoulder to shoulder and sharing together they shall not fail and they will not fail to future prospects.

One of the programs we most certainly are proud of is recreation and its ability to touch all people of all ages. We have and will still keep trying to establish it as one of the best recreation programs in this area.

A MAN TO REMEMBER

The Contribution of Henry Bird Steinhauer

by Eugene Steinhauer

To date, no written history or factual information is available to substantiate the unique contribution that Indian people made towards the development of their own country over and beyond the past 100 years. However, no one can deny that our forefathers had the expertise and fortunately, the good-will, to lead the white explorers to their destiny without asking for any rewards or payment for their services.

Therefore, I am at this time, taking the liberty to briefly outline the history of Henry Bird Steinhauer whom I feel has never been credited for this contribution in the development of Western Canada.

Often times, the names of so-called great missionaries, like McDougall, Evans, Father Lacombe, etc., in their task to convert and assist the Indians had fallen short of their aspirations and achievement to assist our people positively. But seemingly, all credit due to our Indian people has been practically ignored by historians and writers.

Henry Bird Steinhauer was born in an Ojibway village near Rama, Ontario, in 1820. No one recalls his original name. However, the name Steinhauer, since its adoption 156 years ago, is proudly retained by five generations of Indian families living in North Central Alberta.

In the 1820's the Ojibway tribe of Rama, closely related to the Cree nations in tradition and language, had gradually occupied the ancient lands of the Hurons. When the interests of the Wesleyan Methodists were aroused in them, they too had fallen low through liquor and degeneracy. A Minister of the name of Reverend William Case was at that time working among them and through his efforts, the Indian child who became Henry Bird Steinhauer eventually rose to prominence as teacher, minister, and perhaps one of the most effective community development workers and builders in the far North-West.

Reverend Case, in one of his journeys to Philadelphia, U.S.A. to raise funds for Indian Missions, met a Mr. Steinhauer who, having but recently lost his son, offered to educate a promising Indian boy for the Christian Ministry. So, this boy of the Ojibways was renamed Henry Bird Steinhauer and gave to that name a prominence it probably would never otherwise have attained.

The young Indian boy, after adoption, was educated in mission schools, at Cazenovia Seminary in New York State and at Upper Canada Academy at Colbourg — the latter became Victoria College, University of Toronto. Young Steinhauer unusually gifted, became a proficient scholar, especially in Greek and Hebrew; of strong personality with a capacity for friendship, he became also efficient and prominent in college activities.

In 1840, he was sent west where, for 14 years, he laboured as a teacher at Rainy Lake, Fort Alexander,

Henry Bird Steinhauer.

Norway House and Oxford House Missions in Manitoba. He readily mastered the Cree language and was chosen to assist Reverened James Evans perfect the systems of Cree Syllabics by which an Indian could be taught to read and write his native tongue in a few weeks. Steinhauer was never content with teaching and preaching but also tried to interest his people in farming, home building, or other activities. Actually, he was the founder of the Oxford House Mission in Manitoba. Thus, it was no wonder that he was chosen to accompany Reverend John Ryerson to England in 1854 on church business. On his return, he was ordained at London, Ontario and sent to Fort Edmonton as assistant to Reverend Thomas Woolsey. Because of his ability to communicate along with his other unique gifts, Steinhauer was sent to Lac La Biche, Alberta where many nomadic Crees had not been exposed to religion or the ways of the white man.

Lac La Biche was then an important station on the fur routes, the terminus of the water route to the Peace and of that to the lower Athabasca districts and of the overland routes to Forts Carlton and Pitt in the Saskatchewan Country and thence to Fort Garry. To young Steinhauer, the atmosphere was hardly conducive to Christian living so that when he learned of White Fish Lake, he and a few converts decided to establish a community there.

"It was a day of small things," wrote Steinhauer. "Our party was small — only two wig-wams — the inmates of these the extent of our first congregation. Our enemies prophesied certain failures of our undertaking. What can an Indian do with Indians to make prayer men and women of them?"

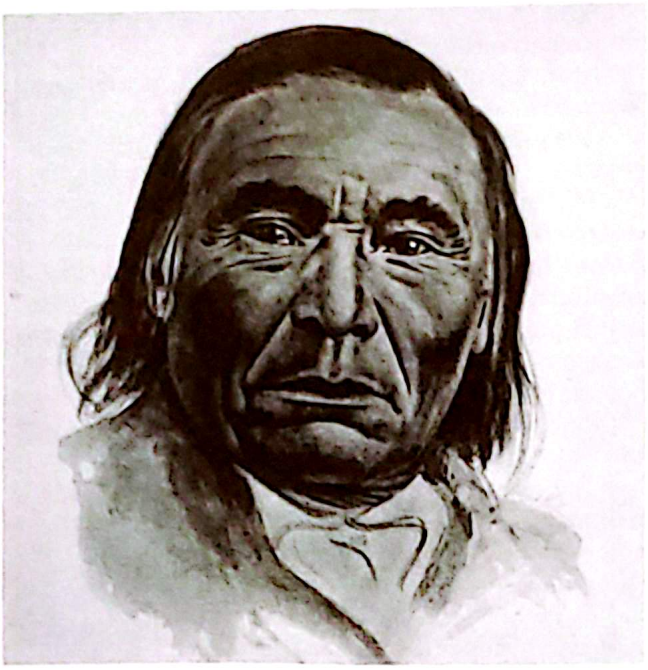
At that point, no critic was ever in greater error. Because Henry Bird Steinhauer was on the threshold of the greatest stage of his career. The "small things" remained clouded until White Fish Lake became, not only the only settlement of Native people in agriculture west of Fort Garry, and not only an outstanding bulwark of loyalty during the Riel Rebellion of 1885, but also a community of Christian people whose descendants still occupy that area and still engage in the same peaceful pursuits of mixed farming and fishing. In June, 1955, they were able to celebrate not a jubilee but a Centennial and rededicated themselves to another century of outstanding achievement.

The transition of the Indian people from warring nomads to devout and industrious farmers and fishermen was extremely difficult to achieve in one generation. Thus, the first few years was a constant struggle. Houses had to be built, not temporary camps; land had to be broken for gardens and small fields. A church and a school were also constructed; tools were few, hardware and glass were not available; nor for a long time was there even a whipsaw, let alone ploughs or hoes. Walls, doors and roofs were of hewn logs; windows were of thin rawhide stretched to parchment thinness. For heat, light and cooking, crude fireplaces of clay and twigs had to serve. Moreover, when the half-tamed horses would not submit to harness, Steinhauer and 12 men harnessed themselves and drew the plough. Fortunately, food was plentiful, fish in the lake, berries in the woods, moose and deer, along with the annual thrill of the buffalo hunt for relaxation and food.

The community grew rapidly and soon surplus barley and vegetables were produced and freighted, it is said, to Fort Edmonton 125 miles away. The church had to be replaced with a much larger building and the day school so impressed Chief Factor William Christie of the Hudson's Bay Company and William Hardisty that they presented generous prizes to the students.

In 1867, the settlement was considered important enough that a Hudson's Bay Company Post was opened near Whitefish to operate as an outpost from Lac La Biche. During this period, the smallpox epidemic struck, but it left Whitefish community unscathed. Wisely, Steinhauer had urged the band to leave the lake and scatter throughout the bush so that they might avoid contagion. They were probably the only group of Indians that were not seriously depopulated at that time.

By this time (1876), with the mobility of the white man, representatives of the Queen were advancing rapidly into every sector of Indian territory in the west to extinguish Indian claims. The great Hudson's Bay Company had surrendered its territorial right to the new Dominion of Canada for cash and land. Although, part of the Whitefish Lake Settlement was laid open to their claims, officers of the company did not disturb the Indians. Talk too had reached the community of the Treaties being executed throughout the west. Although



Chief James Seenum (Pakan).

Steinhauer never aspired to civil authority there is no doubt that he often sat with his friend Chief James Seenum (Pakan) to ponder impending changes.

Over a short period of time, the population of the Whitefish Lake Community had increased so rapidly that more and better farming land had to be found. Therfore a group relocated 25 miles to Saddle Lake to settle. School and church needs at that point were also considered for them.

The treaty #6 signed at Fort Pitt in 1876 required a colony of Metis at Goodfish Lake to leave since they were squatting on reserve land. Young generations were growing restless, and increasing demands upon his time and energy from other sources, were showing on the aging Steinhauer.

Mr. Steinhauer recalls that, in 1881, as he was hurrying home after a long journey to Eastern Canada, he was startled, when passing the Goodfish Lake Flat, to see no living soul about the place. However, when he approached Whitefish, he was glad to hear sounds of praise coming from the little church that he and his people had built. It was Sunday, and all the people had gone to church as usual.

In 1884 an epidemic of influenza struck the community. Worn out with age, hard work, with the added burden of the epidemic, Mr. Steinhauer fell ill. On December 30, 1884 after two weeks of illness, he said good-bye to his people and passed away. Today, a simple granite marker stands in a cemetery with the following inscription in syllabics "Here He Hath Buried His Loved One".

In June of 1955, the late John Laurie, a great friend of the Indians of Alberta who for many years was a driving force behind the Indian movement by this province, wrote, "There is no standard by which we may measure the greatness of this man."

FENCING OF THE RESERVE

by Mr. Henry Cardinal

I was there and I even worked right along with the fencing. This came about in the fall, Thomas Makokis was the chief then and he was the one that thought of how to save the reserve. There was a lot of horses and they were eating up the wild grass for the cows. Some of the people had a lot of cows and the people KIKIS-TIKEWAK. Some people had fifty acres or more seeded into wheat and oats. This is why Thomas Makokis figured the reserve would be fenced. At first the people were hesitant, because they had no money to buy wire for all the reserve. They were given money from Ottawa about $2,000.00. The people were called to cut down posts. The people got along and worked in groups helping each other out. Tamaracks were cut in the reserve for the fencing of all the reserve. The boundary was about fifty miles before the eastern part of the reserve was sold. In the spring, I helped out to haul posts. There was a lot of people, almost all the members must have worked. We made camp and rations like bacon, tea, flour rice were given out. They killed a cow anytime they wanted to eat meat.

I'm going to name some old people that had worked, firstly Big Louis, he used to go around yelling to the young people to get up and work. He used to tell us if you sleep too long you're going to stink. My grandfather MISIJIJAN, OKAKAKEW, MORE THAN USUAL, AUGUSTINE, ARTHUR STEINHAUER. These old people told them to work. They did a lot of fencing in one day. The guys that were lining up posts, then there was some that KOTAWASKIHAJIK, then the next group came with sledge hammers pounding them. Then came the wire stretchers. They just about caught up with the post pounders.

If a stray animal got into that field the owner had to pay a fine. My uncle, Robert Houle, told me once that stray cattle go into this field and that the owner got a fine. This I know of what I have just told and all the people were for it.

THE CREES OF SADDLE LAKE

The signing of Treaty No. 6 at Fort Carlton on August 23, 1876 marked the beginning of a new era in the history of the Plains Cree of Northeastern Alberta.

Before the signing of the treaty, the Cree had been a nomadic people, dependent on the great herds of buffalo for most of the basics of life . . . Buffalo meat was the main diet . . . hides were used for clothing and shelter . . . and the stomach was used as a pouch for food. Even the bones were used to make weapons such as knives . . . and the sinew for bow strings and thread.

With the disappearance of the buffalo . . . the Cree's way of life . . . was severely threatened. And with the signing of the Treaty . . . the transition of the Cree from a nomadic life, to that of an agricultural society began.

And so Saddle Lake Reserve was born. And the Cree became dependent on the government for provisions and agricultural tools . . . a dependence that lasted many years.

That is all changing!!

Saddle lake, one of the most progressive tribes of Canada, has a dream of economic self-sufficiency and has been rapidly moving towards that goal over the last few years, with the development of progressive farm policies that are converting potentially arable land to productive farm land under the guidance of the Chief and Band Council. Saddle Lake has also created on-reserve businesses, such as a farm machinery repair shop, that serves farmers of the reserve and the pre-fab shop which supplies many of the materials needed for new housing.

Sound management of the revenue from natural gas reserves, is also adding to the stable economic growth of the Reserve. The new Tribal Complex is also a testimonial to the progressive drive of the Cree People. As well as housing administrative offices, the complex contains several small businesses such as a Credit Union and restaurant, that are band owned and operated. As the Tribal Motto says . . . "we've only just begun."

In the Cree culture the circle is sacred. Everything is a whole . . . all people . . . all of nature, of life . . . revolves in a circle around the center of the circle . . . the Great Spirit.

All things within this circle know of their harmony with every other thing and know how to give away one to the other except man. (example . . . the yielding of season to season, sunrise to sunset, prey to predator).

All things within the circle have spirit and life, including rivers, rocks, earth, sky, plants and animals . . . but only man is a determiner . . . one who must learn his harmony with his brothers and sisters and the other spirits of the Universe . . . and decide in which direction he wished to go.

In the Cree circle, are also represented the four directions, the four colors. North . . . whose color is white and stands for courage. West . . . whose color is blue and stands for water . . . life . . . rebirth. The South . . . whose color is yellow and stands for growth. The East whose color is Red and stands for wisdom . . . for it is in the East that all things begin.

When a man is born, he has a beginning place within the circle . . . within the four directions. This beginning place gives us our easiest and most natural way through life. But if we remain only at our beginning place, we are only a partial man . . . to become whole . . . or in harmony . . . then we must learn the ways of the other directions.

If we are born in the East . . . in the color of wisdom . . . then we must also learn the ways of courage, and growth and of rebirth, to reach our full potential.

The sacredness of the circle is reflected in the everyday life of the Cree people. Places of worship . . . sweat lodges are circular. Villages are set up in circular fashion.

Dances are held in circular fashion, around a fire whose confining stones are also in a circle. The new council chambers of the Tribal Complex are also in a circle . . .

Also sacred to the Crees is the number 4. There are four directions, four seasons, four colors, four directions of the wind, and four positions of the sun. Ceremonies such as the sun dance are four days in duration, as are feasts and celebrations.

In many areas of Cree life . . . you will find this symbolism still alive and flourishing today.

Dances are very much a part of the Cree Life and all dances have special beats on the drum. At the Intercultural Days celebrations you will see the Grass or Round Dance . . . a dance of joyful celebration. Scratch or chicken dances in imitation of the mating ritual of prairie chickens; pow wow dances, traditional Dances and the Girls Shawl Dance.

The Sun Dance is hosted or put on by a member of the tribe with special medicine powers and the gift of powerful visions . . . whenever someone needed healing for himself, his family, or members of the whole tribe. The Sun Dance is a dance of brotherhood and all participants fast totally for four days and nights. The last Sun Dance at Saddle Lake was held in the 1930's. There are still Sun Dances held occasionally at Frog Lake and Onion Lake.

During the many dances you will see one of the Crees who seems to be controlling the other dancers. He is called the Whip Man. It is his function to cause the other dancers to get up and dance. In olden times the Whip Man organized the raiders who were going out to meet another tribe, in battle.

If you are camping at the Reserve and are awake early, you may hear the Crier, as he travels about the

Billy Half and Ralph Steinhauer inside the frame for a Sweat Lodge.

camp in the dawn light, praying for all the camp and calling the elders together for the ceremony of the pipes and the four flags. This ceremony is sacred and reserved for elders only. The Crier also tells the news of the camp such as births and deaths.

Long ago, Indians wore clothing made of hides, that consisted of a breech cloth, leggings, vest, and beaded decorations. These articles of clothing are still used today for special celebrations such as Intercultural Days.

Traditional foods of the Indian people were wild meats such as buffalo, deer and moose; prairie chickens; sometimes fish and even coyote . . . and of course wild berries. During the winter months the Cree people subsisted to a large extent on a diet of pemican and other dried foods.

Pemican was made from buffalo or moose meat, cut into long, narrow strips and hung on racks to dry in the sun. Then it was cut into cubes and pounded into a paste on a flat rock, adding buffalo fat, blueberries, cranberries and other native berries, to taste. The more berries that were added, the tastier the pemican tended to be. While the meat was drying and being pounded, the casing from the buffalo innards, having been scraped and cleaned, was sitting in a pail of salt water. After the preparation of the pemican is completed . . . the casing is stuffed with paste and tied off in lengths for daily rations.

An alternative method of making pemican was to roast the buffalo or deer chunks over an open fire until well done . . . then the meat was cooled and cut into small chunks . . . pounded on a flat rock and mixed with a few wild onions. Bear fat was added and the meat was pounded into a thick paste . . . put in a crock or other suitable container . . . and buried into the ground about two feet deep, until needed. You will not likely taste pemican this week-end but at the Intercultural Banquet you will be able to feast on a traditional Cree food . . . Buffalo meat.

Edward Cardinal and his grandchildren. He was born in 1882. Taken in 1976.

HUNTING

by Mr. Henry Cardinal

And of this way of living your asking me, arrows were always used before. I don't know where they got this from, but sometimes whiteman tells me that Indians were smart then. They made themselves knives which could be thrown a great distance to kill game, but mostly arrows were used to kill all kinds of game, even big game such as buffalo.

There was a time there was no buffalo but one person found out where the animals had moved to. One summer and one winter they were gone and this guy found them in a canyon. All the buffalo used to go into that Canyon, but the people didn't know this till this one guy seen them go in. They hardly hunted the smaller game like deer, but they did kill APISJAJIKOSAK. The people in those days main source of meat was buffalo and antelope. Moose, deer, and little creatures were hunted until lately. It wasn't too long ago when I heard my father-in-law say there was a moose that was killed. The people were really surprised. The name of the moose is not known of how it came about.

The only fur bearing animal that they were hunted was the NIKIN. The Blackfoot paid a good price for the other pelt. They thought a lot of this pelt. There was a lot of wild animals, but the most fiercesome animal was the MISTAHAYA and the prairie wolf. There was a lot of grizzlies and prairie wolves. The wolves use to attack the buffalos.

WHAT GOOD INDIANS ARE MEANT TO BE

by Mrs. Isabel Cardinal was born in 1907.

Long ago I used to hear the old people talk about when something used to worry them. They used to go to the sundance to go and worship. They fasted for three days and they never ate or drank in those three days. They never took their eyes off the tree that's standing in the middle. They used to go there and look for life, and torture themselves. They thought a lot of this sundance cause they counted on it for a lot of things. So this is one thing thats worth a lot. The chicken dance is the second in line for worship. They thought a lot of this too. A person used to promise something and if he ever got well he put a chicken dance, and do what he promised to do. This is where he got his life back, and they relied on this too. People didn't go to the doctor as much as they do now. If a person was sick they gave him a sweat bath. Many times he got well from that. He was cured in there. And one dance that wasn't done too often was the tracking dance. They got life from this too. This is how the people used to live. And another one is the grass dance. If a person was sick he promise to put a grass dance and he promised to feed people and offer food. All these dances people used to go to them before the whiteman came. It hasn't been too long since the people started going to the doctor. And what the people believed

in that's where they got cured from. They make all kinds of promise. I've seen this when I was young. I've seen the smoking houses they used to have. They offered food and smoked the peace pipe. They didn't do this very often just an odd one here and there. A person was given one of these to rely for life. This all about these dances.

The whistles were mostly used in sundances and they thought a lot of them. After they used them they put them away in a safe place. They were sort of a protection to them. The rattle is made of hide. It was shaped like a ball. Then they used to look for gravel that was dry to put in the rattle. The rattle is used in all dances, except the grass dance. The peace pipe was also a highly thought of thing. They usually took the peace pipe first then the sweet grass and a gift of offering. Only when a person was really sick did they use these things. At that time not too many died not like today.

People met each other in good faith. People used to invite each other even on Sundays for a big feast. After the meal people used to sit around and tell stories. There was one old man who always had a peace pipe with him. The old man with the pipe asked for good luck and good health for the people. At that time people lived in a clean state of mind. You had peace of mind and you knew you were going to have a good night's sleep. You didn't have to buy fun for good-times. It was just friendship and people used to get along with each other. Life was simple at that time. In summer there were all kinds of berries. This is my childhood days. You listened to your parents. You had respect for them and obeyed them when they told you to do something. We didn't stay up late at night, when we were told to go in, we had to go in. We weren't supposed to fool around at night. They use to tell us there was some kind of spirit that used to go around at night and that was supposed to scare us. So we used to go in therefore we listened to our mothers cause they were the ones that reprimanded us. When your parents told you something you listened. They weren't afraid to tell you what was right not like today the young would sooner listen to the radio. In the morning they would tell you what to do and you had to help them as much as you could. The parents worked with their children. And today it's way different. As I grow older I see all the changes even with what the land produces. Nowadays, a lot of things happen, in my day we seldom ever heard of a death and today we just about hear of one everyday. I often wonder about my grandchildren they don't even talk Cree. What I'm afraid of is the peace pipe smoking is that it will be done in English pretty soon, after us old people are gone. Whoever believed in his elders the way they had lived is doing good for himself. That is the way we were born on this earth. This Indian worship and Christianity which has been taught to us they are both the same. It should not be abused and if you follow it up believe in it you'll have prosperity within your family. Treat an old person with kindness and you'll be pleased. Treat orphans with some kindness and God will be pleased. This is what we were told and it did happen. The old people were smart, even if they did not read, they believed in their lives and the way they lived on this earth. Many a time I think about this and I also told this to my children. An Indian that was born to invent radios he had no gifted knowledge to make things as such. Us being poor when we die we have a chance as spirits to go to heaven. We may be able to reach the good place where we won't have to suffer like we do on earth. My dad had told me these things to hold to the ways of an Indian. Although the children go to the white schools but they should not leave the Indian culture out. He's got Indian blood in him, it should guide him and give him knowledge.

WAS THAT A MIRACLE

by Thomas Wasahatinaw

One of my grandchildren came to me, the time a child had drowned. And he said to me "NIMOSOM, a child has drowned." then he said he was going over to Mary Large's place to go see Roy Makokis's wife. After he left I went and laid down and closed my eyes, when I opened my eyes and the house was all lit up, and there wasn't even a light on when I went and laid down. When I went to the other side, the light went out. I put the light on to see if there was anybody around but there wasn't. I put the light out and went to the other room which was lit but when I got there the light went out. I put the light on again to see if there was anybody in the room but there wasn't anybody. So I shut the lights off and went to bed ATAWIYA no more lights came on. I wonder why this happened maybe it was because of the little boy that drowned.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Wahsatnow in 1976.

Mr. Ben Moses coming back from a rabbit hunt. He was born in 1895. Picture taken in 1976.

OLD BEN MOSES

I'm going to talk about the kind of work they did long ago. When I was about twenty, I use to thresh. Then it happened, this MESJAJAKANIS invited me while I was at home. I was invited to work, but I have to bring somebody along. My father said to get ready, which I did. I took blankets etc. We rode on horses. They're used for harvest in the early fall. The weather used to be beautiful. The grain used to grow in peace. It was just about harvest time when we left.

We had to cross the river with the horse, we were on the boat and had to hold the reins from there. Then once on the dry ground we sat down to rest. It was noon by the time we left. We got our horse, and were on our way to Warwick. "The pay is **good** here," he said. "So we'll work here if they want us." When we got there, they just finished working, it was late evening. "How come this horse is climbing." I asked. He told me it was a horse powered threshing machine. The horse was climbing in order for the machine to run. The horse kept walking in one place, tied up. On either side there was a fence, just like those on a two-wheeled cart. It looked like a round ladder. That's where the horse was climbing and machine was running. "I was very surprised." On the other end straw was coming out and there was two men forking it away. That's the way we'll be working", I thought. We worked a week, then I asked my partner how much we were getting paid. We were getting $1.75, we did a lot of work for that price (all day). But everything was cheap then. Cigarettes were 10¢, Tea 30¢, 100 lbs. of flour $2.00. We were getting good pay for $1.75.

I used to listen to my father, real good. Whenever he went, I went with him. When he wasn't home, I went to the bush to help him. That's what we use to do. He never told me what he was doing. I knew he went working in the bush, but didn't know what he was up too. Then once he told me, Son, I'm going to talk to you. If you could hunt good animals, such as small bush animals, try and kill them, I'll buy you a rifle. Sure enough he bought me a new one, a 38:55 rifle. It had a long barrel. He must've paid 18 bucks for it. I really liked the gun. "My son," he said this will keep you occupied now. You'll want to go hunting now. You track down deer, moose, and don't shoot for nothing cause somebody else might be hunting and you'll hit them. Make sure it's an animal before you shoot. This he told me cause in the future you'll find a wife, if you're a good hunter. Sure enough, I did. Don't play and don't touch liquor. I never drank till I was 30 years old. I didn't play cards or hand games up to this day. My uncle Samson's dad, my dad's brother was destroyed by cards and hand games. So, my father used to always throw this at me. I listened to my father. This is all I know.

My grandmother told me when I was 4 years old, my grandmother raised me. My uncle MISJIANIS' son, he was a young man he brought us around. He brought us to a long slough, the slough is still there. Among the willows and tall trees we camped there, we use to play with girls, pretending we were married. But I said I wanted to live alone. Okay he said make your own home. When we finished playing, we went home. In the morning, he said, "We'll go play again." He brought us to the store but there was hardly any sugar or candies at that time. There was only cubed brown sugar. So we played outside the store where we seen people going to buy food. I doubt very much there was enough food to supply a lot of people. I got home and my folks asked where I had been.

OUR LAND

by Old Lady Jackson-Goodfish Lake

Today the young people go after bad things that are no help to them, I don't want it to bother me but it still does. My grandchildren don't listen to me when I try and tell them something. People use to preach to their children and would warn their children and today people follow the whiteman ways. The kids around here talk only English and not Cree. Liquor doesn't do anything right for people. It kills them yet they don't stop drinking. Religion is the only thing to use. Go in the place where the word of God is spoken. You have to believe in it to help you. Our land just isn't working because there is too much liquor. The man and woman have to be right when they preach to their children. We weren't allowed to stay out late at night. We had to be quiet at night. Today it's not like that.

There was only one man who was chief here and his name was Pakan Seenum, and today we never have a chief. He ran things the right way and he liked people. He treated all people all the same. Our land is small, Saddle

Lake had saved some land but he was beaten to it. Saddle Lake said he was going to put all the lakes in the middle of the Reserve so the children could make a living by fishing, lumber and making hay. He thought of the children's futures. He said he was going to have the reserve over there. There was a chief from Saddle Lake and Pakan and they worked together not like today. When they broke up everything else went too. When Pakan was chief he went around visiting the people. When he saw a person short of something like wood for the old people he would tell his boys to go and cut wood for them. Or the people would all chip in and help the person that was short of something. That's how the people worked together here on our land.

ONE OF THE BIGGEST MISTAKES THE PEOPLE OF SADDLE LAKE EVER MADE

by Mr. Lloyd Cardinal was born in 1903

I use to hear when they talked about Saddle Lake reserve, it was a reserve by itself. It was measured when it was a whole reserve, I guess. Before the whiteman came and lived around here, the reserve must have been right on. I don't remember much since I was a child, then. There was an Indian residential school in Red Deer, I was there for eleven years. From there I lost all the knowledge I should know about the reserve. I use to hear the old folks complain about this. From what I remember they used the river as a measurement for the reserve. But south of the river there was land and there was quite a bit of it. There was about one township. They lost much of this land. I used to hear this old man, ESJAKANIS, say there were steam engines and threshing machines. The people themselves cut the bundles and pushed them in the machine from there the machine worked. These are the kind of machines they used. These machines the people say are the cause of the loss of the land. Nobody really knew about this cause nobody every really tried to find out about the land. Till today nobody knows. Somewhere maybe in Ottawa there's papers regarding this land. So from this nobody can say this is true. Even us today, I went on a trip to look for a paper, I went with one guy (he died). Finally we found a paper about this land in Frog Lake, but we were told that the kids had been playing with it and lost it. If we had seen that paper from there we would have known what had happened. So this is all I've heard. But they didn't try hard enough to find out of what happened. The people had been given steam engines and threshing machines. I've seen the steam engines. I've even worked when they were threshing. So from this I can't really say, it's only what I heard.

Land in St. Brides

I've seen this land and I've heard about it. Where we went wrong was in selling the land.

When I was a young man, I didn't have a care in the world. In 1925 the land was sold. There were some people going to convince the people to sell the land. This I know, that the people that went around were really excited about selling the land. But some of the old people didn't like it. It was passed and the land was sold. From then on everything happened. The whiteman plowed the land for the immigrants. Sure enough the immigrants arrived. Thirty-six sections of the land was sold where the white people are now living. There was one place that was never sold, but that was lost too cause nobody bothered to look into this matter. That's where we use to get our hay from. It was called Two Hills. Because I know not too long ago I was sent there to go and make hay there. I don't know what happened to that hay too, maybe the Indian agent or the whiteman got something out of it. I often wonder what happened to that hay, I made. To my knowledge, nobody ever went and got that hay. I must have made three or four haystacks and I heard later that those haystacks were never sold, but I guess that's even lost today. It would have been real nice if somebody had come and interviewed the old people then for sure we would have known what happened to the land.

THE INFLUENZA ON SADDLE LAKE

by Louisa Large was born in 1900

The time that the influenza was going around there was a policeman that came and closed the school down. We were taken out of the school and out into the gallery and Sister Nandell asked if any of the girls would volunteer to go around with the sister who happened to be a nurse to go around visiting the sick. There were five girls that volunteered but none were accepted, then I was asked and I said I don't know. I didn't give in at first cause I wanted to ask my father for permission but I had seen my father being carried by, he was sick already. Then I said I was willing to face the hardships. Sister St. Bernard said my words were very wise. In the morning, we were loaned two horses. One horse was loaned to us by Bert Moses. That horse was lame and so was the other one that we were loaned. The sister and me had a hard time to get on the buggy. So we left and brought some soup, crackers and rice to feed the sick. The sister asked me where we should go. I was driving the team. We headed west from the school. Then I remembered my parents told the sister to go there. When we got there sister went in while I tied up the horses. Then she came out and told me not mind too much of what she was going to tell me. She said my dad was pretty sick. I took my coat off and my mother came out. So I told my mother to come and eat some soup and bread that the sister was going to give her. So we went in and my mother told me not to cry. My brother Paul who was two years old then came running to me and I picked him up. Then I saw my father and he was very sick and sister told my mother not to give my dad any meat. My dad talked to me and told me to be

brave. After the sister treated him, I went out first and unhitched the horses. The wagon was just about turned over, something had caught and my mother came out to help us. We had a tough time there. Then sister asked me where we should go next. I told her to go to the agency. We couldn't go fast cause the soup was spilling and the horses were lame. We finally got there. That time it was all prairie and not bush. When we got to the agency, we sat on the board sidewalk and there was dirt flying all around. Sister asked me if I wanted to eat any soup and I said no cause there was dirt in the soup. We threw the soup away into the bush. While we were sitting there a man, John Borwick, came and laughed at us. John Browick was the interpretor then and he asked us why we were sitting outside and he said we might get sick. So I told him we had no place to go in. John Borwick invited us to go and eat with him the next day. Then he went into the office and locked the door. The horses were moving around and I told the sister if they break anything there wouldn't be anybody around to fix things for us. Then she asked what we should do next. The houses were very far apart not like now. On the way back to the school, I told sister we'll stop at houses on either side of the road. We stopped at my uncle's place and when we got there the door was locked. From there we headed back to the school. When we got to the school the horses were looked after for us. The horses were taken back to the owners. Then we went in the school and our clothes were hung by the door. A sister came and put clean clothes in the kitchen and took off. I had to change my clothes three times. Our clothes were taken outside then I was sent to the attic to go and change again. That's how scared the sisters were of catching the influenza. Then I went back to the kitchen to eat then I went to the girl's room. Then one girl asked me why I was wearing a red dress and I said that's the way I had to dress because I left my other dresses along the way. The sister that used to keep the girls asked me how many people had died that day. I told her not to say this after all the trouble we went through. I did go and sleep with the rest of the girls, but I had to change again. In the morning I had to get ready again, I put my red dress on again. For a week we were on the road. There was hardly any cars at that time. We went to the agency and we brought food along again. Mr. Browick gave the Sister some papers and said if we meet any man to tell him to come to my place and to wait outside for me, and I'll talk to him through the window. So we went north and there was a sign on the road near the graveyards. The sign said there was one man dying at the Wahsatenow's and we had to go there. We had to go to Jakipani. We were given crackers to feed the people. I knew the road cause I was there before. I told the Sister this is the place people are sick. Sister said let's turn back and try and find this one old man who's sick, by the name of Wipemesis. The old man got better and we turned back to where there were more sick people. It was getting late and the Sister cried saying that it wouldn't always be this bad. So we drove back towards the agency taking the road back to the school. When we got to the school Sister said this is the last day we'll be using horses and to try and get ready early in the morning cause we'll be using a car tomorrow. A policeman was coming to take us around. While I was standing outside the policeman arrived and I was very happy. We sat in the back seat and the policeman said we should go and sit in front with him, but Sister said not her, cause she was different. We arrived at the agency and ate in the car. Then we headed north and found this Jakipanis very sick. The old man told me to tell sister that he was very sick, if you come tomorrow you may have to take my body out. I told the sister what he said and she said Grandpa don't talk like that, you're not going to die. The Sister really tried to talk Cree. The next day we went this old man was dead and his younger brother was laying there. That was Kalias' husband. These old people had been alone at home and they came for help here. They had just gotten here the old man passed away, a day after his older brother. The police didn't let anybody come in the house, the house was quarantined. There use to be a few visitors, but when they were caught they got scolded by the police. The people were sick for about a month and we went around for the whole month. If a person got his sickness it didn't take too long for them to die.

THE BIG SURPRISE

by Mr. John Berton

I'm going to tell a little story I know. They come and tell me to tell a story. I'm getting on to 85 year old and my wife is 80.

Mr. and Mrs. Breton in 1976. He was born in 1887.

I'm a Wasahatinaw man. I was born at Wasahatinaw and Bear ears was our leader. We had a band member named Crier. He was a councillor and after he died we didn't have a councillor from the Wasahatinaw band. A man from Saddle Lake was chosen instead. I wanted to nominate somebody but I wasn't given the chance to. Anyway in the past it is written in the book of how we were moved here. We have the records here if somebody, wants to know how it all came about. We owned a piece of land called Wasahatinaw. That was transferred here. But at that time it was very poor to understand, the whiteman ways. But the old folks pretty smart and weren't willing to sell. The Indian agent just took the land for himself. I'm going to tell a little story.

I'm going to tell a story about a well-known man from Cold Lake named Sammy McFeeters. He was brought into the reserve as a band member, he was well off and really got along with the Chips. He had good crops. He sold all his belongings and after he sold everything he went north and took along the Chipewyan girl he married. Where he spent the winter he lived near three old sisters, who still had their parents. The oldest sister kept her mother. Then suddenly the mother got sick, they sat up all night with the old lady. Then this Sammy McFeeters said to his wife let's go and NIPEPI. As we were going I saw one of the old ladies climbing the stairway and I asked her how her mother was. She said she was still alive. That's the one that's supposed to be keeping her mother I thought. They went in and found the old lady sleeping alone on a wooden bed, the kind of beds that were nailed to the wall. There she was sitting up, she didn't even invite us in. There were two chairs by the door and we sat in each one. Then I saw a little heater and it was in the middle of the floor and the old lady was sleeping right by it. She had her hands on top of her chest and had her head covered with white hair sticking out and here we thought nobody was keeping her. I thought the old girl finally died and us Catholics pray for people who die. Anybody who dies we make the sign of the cross for them. I knelt down by the old lady's head and my wife at her feet and we prayed for her. After we prayed for her she still laid the same and for sure we thought she was dead. I lifted the blanket off her face figuring it was the mother. I wet my thumb and I started to make a cross on her forehead to the tip of her nose. She yelled and threw her arms up and I did the same. She really yelled. I thought I brought her back from the dead. She scared me. I sat back, there was just my wife and me. It's about time the old lady said something. That's any younger sister she's not feeling well today.

INDIAN WEATHER SIGNS

by Alex Stamp

What I'm going to say was told to me by some old people. I use to hear that when somebody was going hunting (walking) they waited for one certain star. When that certain star came out then they went hunting. That star is the morning star. Another star is the OKINANAS. Its really noticeable if a person takes time to look for it. This star, OJEKATA, would turn about half way here. Where the tail end point is that's when daylight comes. And another one that's really noticeable is the evening star. You'll probably see it tonight. The stars guided the people and they used the stars to tell time. And there is one star that doesn't move. When they surveyed the reserve they used this star as a guide.

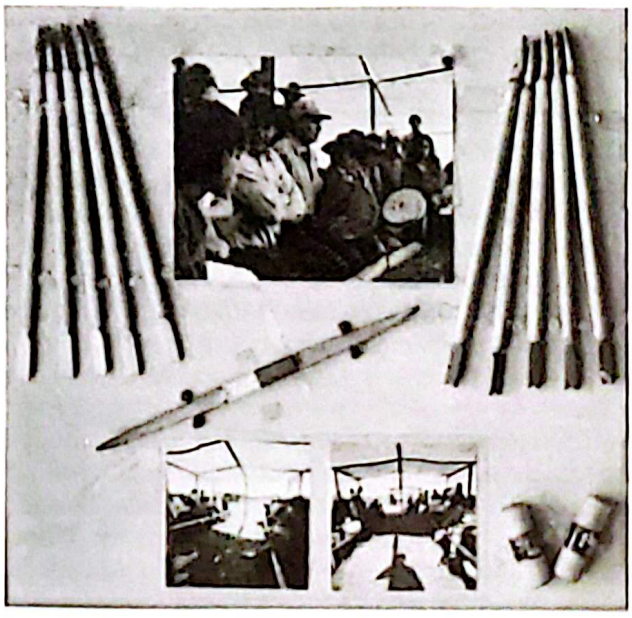
I heard one old man, APISJAKISKOS, he was working in Goodfish Lake with the surveyors said that when the surveyors met they used PAJAJOPAYISA. And I asked him what they did when they came to a lake. OSAKAPEKESAK were the ones that measured mile by mile.

I'm 78 years old and was born in 1895. I've noticed the weather and its been real nice. It use to be warm in summer and sometimes a person could sleep on the ground that's how warm it was. And today I think the reason why it's not the same is because the whiteman has been fooling around with the moon. Its cold early. Even this summer it has not been really warm.

The old people used to say that the first quarter moon if it hangs good it holds the water so it won't rain and it will be sunny. And by the clouds, they could tell what the next day would be like, either it would rain or be windy. And one old person said that some nights the moon would seem real far away and then it would be cold. and even the muskrats were a sign of the weather. If the muskrats build their huts real high then there would be deep snow.

GAMES PLAYED BY INDIANS & MEDICINE MAN SOCIETY

During the lull of the seasons, especially in the summer time, many Indians of various tribes used to take



part in the games of skill. One game was called stick game, mostly called Handgames.

There are two origins on handgames, but we will talk about the one type. The handgames did not originate in Canada. After the Riel Rebellion some of the Indians that had taken part in the Rebellion had fled to the United States. After the United States Government sent the Canadian Indians back to Canada they brought back a new game called handgames, or in other words the stick games. Actually, the game was invented by the Crow Indians, who are now located in the Southern part of Montana.

The handgames is actually a game of wit where you try to out guess or out wit one another. Any amount of persons can participate in this game.

First, by placing a bet with the opposing team, like money, horses, clothing, or anything of value, are placed for betting. Once the game is started, it may go on for days and nights.

At one time women were not allowed to play, however it was soon over come, and women are now allowed to participate in the handgame.

The rules of the game are very simple. The players face one another in a row, and they sit down in front of a board, and each player is equipped with a stick to pound a beat on the board while they sing a handgame song. Then two members of the team that are singing would hide two bones in each hand. One bone would be burnt with a burn mark around it indicating a wrong guess, and the other one was a plain bone which is a right guess. There are ten sticks which are placed in the middle of the two opposing teams. When the opposing players hide the bones in their hands, one member of the other team tries to guess in which hand the plain bone is in by pointing. If he gets one right, he gets a set of bones. But the other member keeps on hiding till he is guessed. For every wrong guess, the team that is hiding the bones gets a stick as a marker. The team that has all the sticks wins the game. Once the game is completed, they once again place their bets and resume playing.

Charms and herbs were used for luck in the games. We will now go on to find out where they got these medicines and charms along time ago.

It was through the forming of the lodge of the "Medicine Mans Society." It was here where the charms and the medicine were shown and exchanged. There is not much dancing attached to the lodge. The tent is similar to the one used by the chicken dancers, except for a long pole tied to two posts, driven in the ground, at the height of about six feet, over which hung the offerings and the skins of different animals, including rattle snake skins. These are called Kisihtakana, finished furs and such.

Their skins covered the ground in front of the head man. Each medicine man had his own charms and medicine bag with him. No outsider is ever allowed to enter this tent while the ceremony is going on. There is something unique or some power that the Indians had with his medicines and charms that only they knew.

A great many stories are told about the rituals of these medicine men. Some of them were dangerous and they would hurt or even kill at the slightest provocation. While others were real medicine men who practiced in nothing but the cure of the sick, many went in for herb practices. A dance was put up once a year for these members. A person wishing to become a member, had to give eight articles in all to the medicine man. Then he placed in the middle of the tee-pee by the pole where the offerings were hung. Then he sits on the ground with his legs straight out. Then the medicine men all dance around him. At this dance only the special hollowed out logs are used as drums. After a dance or two, the man who is called out, is tried out. He is tested by different medicine men to see if he could withstand the charms that are used. If he does pass out or get sick, he is soon revived by certain medicine men that have been appointed to test him. Only then he is shown what medicine was used on him and if he wants to exchange, he must give a potent medicine in return. But, at this time the new member is only given one potent medicine to use. But, later on he can make exchanges. He has to make a choice of what he wants to have; the good or bad medicine. Usually it was the good medicine he chooses. Only the "Medicine Men Society" know of his choice. After the new member has been duly accepted, the lodge is now open to the public. Where people can buy medicine to their needs. There were some powerful medicine men long ago, and they are still around. Today every other man or woman has there own medicine bag. No doubt many good herb medicine are still used by native people, that know there value. After the ritual has been held, the singers are called on to sing the special medicine song, and a little dance is done also to give thanks to the spirits. After the ritual, some tobacco is left in the place where the herb was dug up. This was a token of appreciation and for the spirits to smoke later on. So herbs were used for relieving hunger on many buffalo hunts. Mostly, they were used for special ceremonies regarding the healing of the sick. Also, some herbs were used for luck in playing different games. Like the game we just talked about. Also this game is played quite a bit on these many celebrations that are held annually on the many reserves, especially during the Indian days in the summer time. This handgame is very popular in the United States. More so in Montana and in Washington, also in Western Canada. You can still here those familiar chants that use to be sung by the elders that had passed on.

During Indian Days many valuables are lost and won on these many handgames, such as horses and blankets, also money and different articles.

Usually different tribes play against one another. This makes the game more interesting so that they can laugh and talk about it later on, till they meet again later on, or maybe next year. This is another way of mixing in and could lead on to a friendship for the rest of their lives, where they can visit one another on their reserves in the future, and build a good relationship with one another.

Mr. and Mrs. Jean Marie Large. He was born in 1901. Picture taken in 1976.

JEAN-MARIE LARGE

by Jean-Marie Large

I used to hear people say that some people use to sit around Saddle Lake while they were fishing through the ice, and some people said that a WINDIGO had sat on the ice.

This school and church were suppose to be in Lac La Biche cause that's where most of our Catholic friends were. As far as I can remember it was Father Balter and the sisters that ran the school. I was there for quite awhile, then I was sent to High Prairie. I was six years old in 1907 when I was put into Blue Quills school because my dad gave me to his dad and my grandmother. She then put me in the Catholic school to be raised there. When I was twelve years old, I was put to work brushing and we didn't get paid very much either. All we got was five cents a day. I used to work all day like this. Then I asked to be transferred to High Prairie, cause I was tired of brushing. Then I was sent home with a piece of paper for my father to sign. He didn't want to let me go so on the way back to the school I tore up the piece of paper and told the priest they let me go, so I was transferred. I was sent with this one priest who was real mean. He was so mean that he got into a fight with this woman from Goodfish Lake and she scratched up his face. That old lady's name was KAPEWKESIT. The reason they got into a fight was cause that priest gave her son a good licking.

My grandfather used to love me although we were very poor. My grandfather gave me a Cree name. The name he gave me was "MOJOYNIS" and after he gave me that name, he prayed and asked that I live to be old and healthy. Now I think my grandfather was listened to, because I am an old man now.

The Indian way of life is true. Even when our friends invite us to go and eat with them when they offer food to the angels. It's really nice to invite old people to come and eat with us and in return they prayed for you. This true tradition has to be respected and you have to believe it to. My grandfather use to say you don't have to say too much or you don't have to go to church to pray cause God is everywhere and you can pray anytime and anyplace.

Napoleon Brighteye's dad use to think my grandfather was very foolish. One time he asked my grandfather to offer food at one dinner. He was just trying to laugh at my grandfather. So my grandfather took this one dish of meat and offered it. After he finished offering it (praying) he put the dish down. When Napoleon Brighteye's dad looked into the dish there was no food, then he was really amazed. It's not good to think of anybody as foolish. One time in the spring when a person's eyes get squinty Napoleon Brighteye's dad was laughing at my grandfather again, and he was teasing him. He told my grandfather he'd lead him around by the hand. My grandfather told him to leave him alone. So my grandfather rubbed his eyes and threw his hand towards him and Napoleon's dad got squinty eyes instead of my grandfather.

REMINISCENCE BY BERT MOSES

by Bert Moses, was born in 1895.

When I was fourteen years old, in 1909 there use to be an old school, the first on the reserve. It was about in the month of July I ran away from the school. I went down south of Lavoie where people usually went for work. It so happened that a circus came to the town. I met this half-breed guy and he invited me to go work with him at the circus. So he took me to the boss and I got hired. I got $15.00 a month. At the time Edmonton wasn't big, we went right through the city and Calgary. There was one thing that really bothered me and that was the guys that worked there had lice and of course, I got them too. We went through the mountains finally we got to the ocean then to the States. We didn't go through the border just like that. Somebody told the man at the gate that we were Indians from the states. We went as far as California, that's where the circus ended. Then we went to Minneapolis, I guess that's where they wintered the stock. There was just a little bit of snow. It took about two months to get us out of there, finally we got to Winnipeg and from there we were on our own. My partner was going home to North Battleford so I came with him. I spent the winter there. I worked around there the following spring. I was getting fifty, to seventy-five cents or sometimes a dollar and that was the best pay. Work was pretty hard to find but this settler hired me on land

which had been owned by the Indians of the Moosoomin Reserve. About ten or twelve miles northeast of Battleford. There was one horse, one ox, and one bull that pulled the plow. They weren't fast but they did the job. I worked there for one month breaking the land. Finally it was harvest and I worked there for a dollar a day. I was pretty young and the work was heavy for me. The young people today laugh at the wages and type of work we did. The following spring as everybody goes anyplace to look for work, I was asked to go to Mistaysipi. I was fifteen then. We went freighting on the river with goods. I went to a place where people talked a lot about oil, a place called Mistawayaw. The freight went only up to that place at that time. The place they said there was oil, sure enough there was oil as we use to slip on it on the banks of the river when we use to pull the barge. We use to say it was some kind of gum, but it was really oil. I went on the freighting trip three times. I also went to the Athabasca Landing on freights. It wasn't an easy job. In 1917, I worked near Edmonton (Winterburn) threshing. I worked there from the early fall to late in the winter. Wages were better then and I was getting $1.75 a day. This was a year before the war ended. Young people were taken to go into the army. If anybody was caught loafing around he was picked up to go to the army. Indian or white they were picked up. This one half-breed guy told me we should run away. I had some money saved up and there was a train already going as far as Lac La Biche. Then I went with one of my cousins to Natakun. It was in February that we finally came out. We were hiding all this time. So we came back here and it so happened that there was a meeting amongst the people here. They were talking about the promises that were made in the treaties. The one they were talking about was that Indians were not suppose to go to war. The only time an Indian should be in war was in this country. There were about three or four Indians in the army, and they were sent overseas. The chief and council managed to bring all four boys back. This is all.

One time in the south, people went stooking and the farmers were paying seventy-five a day. I took a job there. There was about 700 acres. There was a guy from Saddle Lake that approached me by the name of Little Stone and he helped me for three days and left. There was a half-breed guy that helped me for three days, and then a white guy came and worked with me. This guy was a real hard worker, I was young then too, but he beat me by far. We must have worked about three days when I saw a car parked behind the trees. That white guy was stooking by the road. The guys that got off from the car were carrying guns and by this time that guy that was stooking noticed them but it was too late. He couldn't run away cause it was all prairie. He had a gun too, but he didn't use it. I had to pay this guy cause I owed him money. He was a draft dodger from the States, but he was finally caught.

Henry Cardinal taken in 1976. He was born in 1911.

REMINISCENCE

by Henry Cardinal

Int. — I'm going to be talking to Henry Cardinal and he is now seventy four years old in 1966. He's going to be relating some stories from this area. Some of the old people and where they came from will be mentioned. This is the first in a series of tapes and I'm sure he's going to be a very articulate man. So it will be up to you from here Mr. Cardinal to relate what happened percisely and where the people came from.

Henry — My father-in-law always told me what happened long ago. He told me about the time people first took treaty and what promises were made to them at that time. There was a large number of people when they met the government's representatives. They met him at Sounding Lake, a lake who's water runs very loud. Peter Erasmus was the interpreter for the native people. John

McDougal was also present at the time. The white man's talk was very good, it seemed like they were a people who always kept their word. A person was promised that if they ever should fail in something he would be helped. The white people also said, "Our mother the Queen has lots of milk to bring all her people back to health. The White people took one year before they finally persuaded the Indians to accept the policy of treaty. So when this time came there was a larger population due to the circumstances that this was the time to deal with the real big business. There were more promises made this time. My father-in-law said there was one old man by the name of "man that snuffs out Fire." He was said to be very intelligent. Indeed he was very smart because he warned his people that white men were just here to take their land away. They said, If there is a war on the other side of this forest, your cousin dressed as a red coat will always protect you. In those day's during a war the white people would force our young men to fight for them. We were also promised that we would have a ruler or king of our own race. Of course the old people were delighted to hear so they believed this big lie. One of the reasons Indians are on reserves is because the white people were afraid of them the Indians gradually settled down to their own environment so the white people were no longer afraid. Eventually each little band was forced to join into what is now known as the Saddle Lake Indian Reserve. This is how all the different reserves were formed in Alberta. My father-in-law always said, "As long as the river flows and the sun shines we will not have any trouble." But the whitemen had a different idea. They said, "All I am asking for is six inches of land in the ground. What ever remains may be yours. As long as the sun shines you will be free to hunt anytime and anyplace. You can hunt any wild animals, moose, deer, elk, fish, ducks, etc., anytime you may need it for your survival. This is only one of the promises. There were several others. But I will only mention the important ones. We were promised that we would have full control of our reserve. If anyone came to make trouble for us on our reserves we would have the right to judge him in whichever way we thought just. If any whitemen broke a twig on our reserve we were promised that we would have a right to persecute him. They said we could choose any land in which our people could dwell in. This is one reason why there were so many reserves the first time. I must admit that in the beginning everything the white-man promised came true. But today it is altogether a different story. The government has now hired superintendants to represent us in the government. They even have to consult them in order to get it. But this isn't the way the government said it would be like. They said these representatives were to work for us. They said they couldn't have any jurisdiction, the authority to tell us what to do, we would be telling them what to do. But this isn't true at all. It hasn't worked out that way. We were also promised schools where our children could get educated. They said we would also be a farm instructor provided. He would show us how to farm. The whiteman as I said before always said this, 'If you stumble and fall you shall be picked up and put on your feet to try and succeed again. Our mother the Queen has lots of milk to bring her people back to health so there is no need to fret. Whatever was promised to us there is nothing of that sort in our communities at the present time. Instead the people are kept back from being a success in life. When we first got treaty my father-in-law stated that each person of native origin got paid $25.00. There were a lot of young people that went around borrowing children just for the simple reason of getting that extra $25.00. This was possible because there were no records kept in those days. This foolishness continued for ten years. It went as far as a person's skeleton in the grave got his treaty money. Just as long as someone was there to speak for him. The white people were probably aware of what was happening, but as you know this was one of their tricky schemes to influence the native people. Then they started giving out rations of beef, bacon, and flour to us. The natives gladly accepted this, but because they were getting it free. They thought nothing of throwing away beef, bacon, and flour which was slightly spoiled. They also discarded stacks of flour thoughtlessly. Indian people in those days also thought nothing of money. They had a healthy way of living, that was all that mattered to them. There were no diseases before the whitemen came. The only kinds of sicknesses our people knew about were headaches and stomach aches. Of course these aren't very serious diseases. The only time our people were what we could call "really sick" was when they had the great disastrious epidemic "Small pox. Other than that our people were never sick before the whitemen came. When the Indians finally came to the decision of taking treaty, their leader was "man that snuffs out Fire." But the man basically responsible of influencing the Indians to take treaty was a crow Indian from Sweet Grass. His name was Wee-Kaskooseemin. Apparently this man had been taken from his tribe when he was very young. He lived with the Crees and he married "man snuffs out fire's" sister. He was actually the instigator for the people when they gave the land away. Although he was not of Cree origin he was in someways a good leader for them. Because he was from over the mountains. This Crow Indian and his brother-in-law went east as delegates for the Crees. They made the final decisions prior to the policy of treaty. When our treaty was first given we had a big celebration. Everyone enjoyed themselves the following year we each got $15.00 for our treaty. They had deducted $5.00 for the Indian agents' wages, the schools and medical expenses. To make everything seem easier they told us that someday we would have all the luxuries we needed. But the same thing happened the next year, $5.00 more was deducted. Exactly the same thing happened the following year. Finally we were left with only five dollars. This is what we have been getting up to now. The white people promised us that we would get $20.00 every treaty forever. But as you see this promise was broken as so many others were. The things white people promised us will never come true. When the

white people deducted some money from our treaty they said they were setting it aside for our childrens' use. They also said we would never pay taxes on our land. They said that we could make any whiteman we wanted become a member of our reserve. so I can't see why we can't bring people (Indians) of other origins into our reserve to live. Since so many promises were broken the sun must have stopped shining and river stopped flowing. It is really hard to know where we stand in today's society as we sure can't adjust to the whiteman's environment. I guess we never will either. My father-in-law can't figure out the situation we are in today, and I can't either. Perhaps it was the interpreter's fault.

Int. — I've been wondering if the interpreters did the right thing for the Indians.

Henry — In my own opinion I don't think they didn't do the right thing. The priest sure paid for his wrong doings anyways. On his way to Morley he froze to death, for his lies. He was one of the interpreters. So were John McDougal and Peter Erasmus.

Int. — Were those the ones they called the bearded men.

Henry — Yes, those were the ones. Those were the ones that were also present at that time. The Americans challenged us in a foot race. My father-in-law was an excellent runner as were most of the other Indians at that time. We were to run for the 100 yards dash. The Indian people bet stacks of furs and hides for us. I beat the whitemen barely by an inch. The next time we were to race we were taken far out into the county. I'm not sure how far it was. But it was sure isolate and barren there. It must have been quite a distance from civilization. I recall going over a big hill, though. In the first race there were a lot of us. The only ones I knew though were a champion Indian runner and the whitemen I beat in the race before. There was one more Indian runner included in the race. He was said to be a very fast runner. We were told we had to run over the hill when we were racing. From the beginning of the race I was left behind. when we reached the top of the hill there was already some men on horseback there. They were to notify the spectators that we were coming. By this time I had gained speed. I was right behind the "white runner." In a few more minutes I was running along side him. From here on you could see a great distance away. But it still looked like the people were of minute size since they were still far away. I don't know how many miles long our course was, but when we were approximately half ways I decided to test my "companion's" ability. At first I didn't have any intention of passing him. But when I did he looked mighty mad. His nostrils flared up like a great big badger holes. When I took another glance at him he was just gawking at me his mouth wide open and his eyes just bulging, I presume from his appearance he was really mad. The following day there was another event. This time it was a horse race. There were a lot more spectators.

Int. — Did he ever mention the whiteman's name?

Henry — No, he never did. At that time I don't think the Indians cared to know the whiteman's names.

My father-in-law said that "Manitou keekew" or chief Hunter of Saddle Lake had a dapple grey horse. It was said to be a very fast race-horse. One black horse from the east was entered, plus an American horse which was a real beauty! The starting point was the place we had started from the pervious day. My brother had one cayuse who to me looked bow-legged. Another bad habit that cayuse had was his flopping ears. He as a buckskin with a huge stomach. but this buckskin had been used once in a buffalo hunt and it had been nothing for him to run the speed of the Buffaloes. He told me to go astride it, to take part in the race. I flatly refused and said, "Do you want me to race this cowpoke? I don't want to be embarrassed if I'm left way behind." Finally I agreed to race him. The people were laughing at me though, saying, "What are you going to do with that retired, pot-bellied horse?" Are you going to dispose of him over there?" But in spite of all the critisism, I went ahead with the race. When we started the American beauty took the lead, next came Chief Hunter's dapple grey, the black following right at his heels. Last of all came my cowpoke! He was trying his best though with his legs waving away. By the time we reached the foot of the hill I had overtaken the black. When we got on top the hill I accompanying Chief Hunter's dapple grey. When we had reached the prairie I was right alongside the American horse. I was shipping my mount slightly and it seemed to me every time I gave him a switch he was going faster. I can assure you the Americans didn't feel too happy because I had left their horse a great distance behind. When I reached the finishing point I got off my cayuse and he gave one heavy sigh, I let him go and he went to have his meal of grass. Right away the American's tried to persuade my brother to trade for three of their best horses. But my brother wouldn't trade his bow-legged cowpoke for anything. He kept that pot-bellied horse for a long time after that.

Int. — Did he ever chase buffaloes with them?

Henry — Yes, he used to, and that horse could run the speed of a buffalo. He was that fast, though he was a very small horse. When the race was over they were told to go choose their own reserve. They were told, "You can choose and place you want. This will be your home." Kon-cha-minahouse and my father-in-law's dad Wee-cho-kan were the ones that choose Saddle Lake. Chief Blue Quills and Wahsatenow went to a different place. This place is now known as Wahsatenow. There people believed that there would be a king for every 25 families. This made everyone more eager they all wanted to be king. They thought that at last they would rule the white people. But of course, as usual all these were just lies. We came to live here because we wanted to take the land as far as the river and the lake. We considered the fact that someday our younger generation would use this land as it was suitable farm land. There was no bush in those days. It was just a few years ago when there was thick bush starting to grow all around. I have personally seen the day when I could see miles around without bushes

interfering with my view. So as I told you before this is the place they chose, three miles east of the corner. Because of our rich farm land Blue Quills brought this band to Saddle Lake. A little later Wahsatenow's band came to join Saddle Lake. They had a very large reserve north-east of here. (S.L)

Int. — Who was the one who told the people to come and join these other bands?

Henry — The Indian Agents personally told these people, because they wanted the native people together. But it was quite a while before these people were convinced to move. They were unwilling to move because the chiefs were always quarrelling among themselves. During the Riel rebellion, Chief Pakan chose his land to what is now known as Duck Lake, part of this was sold to the white people. My father-in-law actually heard Pakan saying, "I am taking this land for the good of mine and your people. For they may someday decide to farm in the future. I'll put in beside your land, Chief Hunter." Incidently Chief Hunter had chosen Saddle Lake. He said, "No, because our younger generation are going to have trouble over this land. I will never live to see this day. But I will not let you place your land beside mine." They had a meeting which lasted four days. They discussed the situation of this land. Finally Pakan said to Chief Hunter, "In your custody I will place my land and also my people. If they choose to come and live on your land, let them be free to do so. You will own my land and my people. then we will have no trouble in the future." Chief Hunter asked Pakan if he knew what he was talking about and Pakan said. "Yes." So this is the way Pakan, a Blue Quills, and Wahsatenow came to be amalgamated to the Saddle Lake Band. One of the reasons for this was because of the murdering of one Indian. When the murderer was running away he went thru Kamenistikowich. My grandfather told me they travelled one week, he was riding an ox and he faced a lot of hardship on the way. Eventually these people went and gave themselves up. They claimed the man that they murdered was trying to persuade them to start and join the war. Apparently at the time of this mishap this man was sitting in his teepee. The man who shot poked open the door. When the man saw the shotgun he said, "Shoot straight, because if you don't you'll see." But the range was so close that his head was blown off with the use of the double barrel shotgun. My grandfather said that the man that was shot was very short. Your grandfather probably has told you about this story like I'm telling you. We were promised a lot of good things, long ago, but today if seems like the government is not at all concerned about those promises. The government only bought six inches of ground. This was one deal that was made. Now look at what kind of fortune the government is making which is found below six inches. Oil! coal and other things. The native people never get a cent for their minerals. Only once did we get paid. We only got $20.00 per person. There was also oil dividends. Everybody got that.

Int. — Who instigated the land to be sold? I suppose that happened long ago.

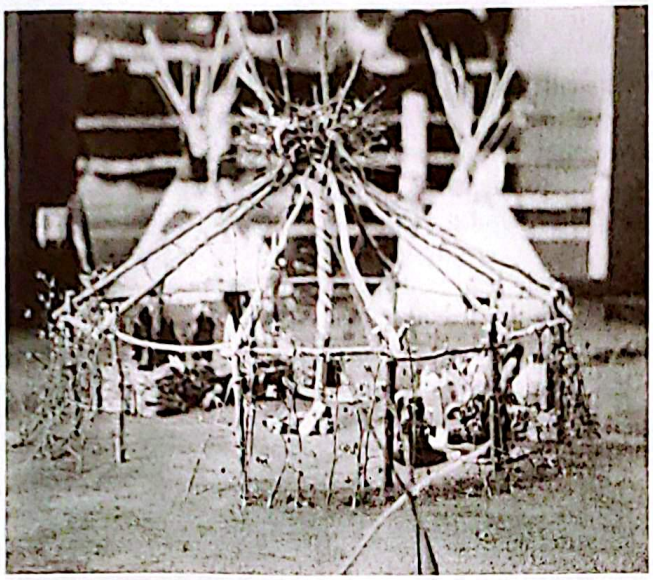
Henry — It happened approximately 100 yrs. ago. My father-in-law never mentioned how old he was at the time when the Indians sold their land. Salteaux from the east were the first to sell their land. The government officials came west to deal with the Crees. At first they were afraid of us due to the circumstances that we used to kill the whitemen anytime and anyplace. At that time we didn't think it was a crime to kill a whiteman. But today it is against the law to shoot them. There sure is a lot of Frenchmen and Ukrainians today.

Int. — Did you ever hear anything about the Riel Rebellion? What happened in Frog Lake and farther east in North Battleford?

Henry — Yes, as my father-in-law took part in it. His name was Pasquayak.

Int. — I heard that one of his older brothers took part. Was it an older or younger brother? Was the one that got killed named Mamnak?

Henry — Yes, he was an older brother. It was Mamnook that got killed. There was also another of his brother's that took part. But this one ran away to the states. He left behind few children and his wife here in Saddle Lake. His name was Pepamaseeweth. This is Windy's Boy's father. He is now residing in Rocky Boy, Montana. Pepamaseeweth went and got married over there. So this is where Windy Boy comes from. Another of his brothers also took part in the rebellion. But what he actually did was kill an old lady in Frog Lake. They thought she would become a ween-di-goo. This younger brother's name was Brighteyes. But the people of Frog Lake were the ones that killed the priest, Indian agent and the others. Here I will name Old Man Mooswa and my older brother. At that time he was staying at Long Lake. He got married there. The news that there was a mishap in Duck Lake came fast. The messenger also went to Saddle Lake. He swam in the Dog Rib river while there was still ice flowing. I arrived here that same day then, I journeyed for Long Lake reserve. From there we decided we'd move to Onion Lake. This is where we took the Indian agent, Mokachis as a prisioner. We also took all his family. He had no alternative but to ride oxen when the native people were running away. Mr. Mann was the English name for the Indian Agent. When we got to Fort Pitt we battled for one day. There was approximately 30 of us fighting the R.C.M.P. When they saw there was just a few of us they charged us. But we held our ground. I cannot say who actually killed the R.C.M.P. You couldn't tell because there was so much noise. We had knives to dig our trenches as there was no proper equipment those days. Towards evening we ran short of ammunition. We were also very thirsty. So we decided one of us would go and fetch water as there was a spring nearby. No one wanted to go but someone shouted again to go for water. I volunteered to go. I jumped out of my trench and grabbed a pail. I put my safety in the spirits hands. I had dreamt about them many times before so I knew they'd protect me. Bullets were zooming past me. Whistling over my head but I continued my way to the spring and got the water.

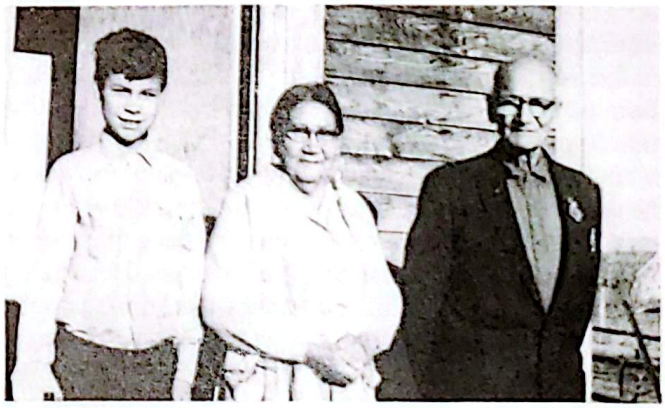


THE SUN DANCE

THE GREATEST OF CEREMONIES WAS AND IS STILL THE SUN DANCE. IT WAS ALWAYS HELD WHEN THERE WAS A FULL MOON. THE SUN DANCE IS A SACRED INSTITUTION. THROUGH IT PRAYER IS MADE FOR ALL PEOPLE, AND IN THE CAMP THERE IS REVERENCE, WITH FASTING FOR TWO DAYS AND NIGHTS, ABSTINENCE FROM SEX AS PROOF THAT IT IS WITH PURE HEARTS THAT THE PEOPLE DANCE. MANY SIT IN THE LODGE WITHOUT DANCING, BUT THEY FAST. ALL TRIBES HAD TRADITIONAL CEREMONIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROCUREMENT OF THE HUGE CENTRAL FIRST POLE TO BE SET UP FOR THE LODGE. MEN CHOSEN FOR THEIR EMINENCE SCOUTED IN WAR DRESS FOR A SUITABLE TREE WITH A FORK AT ITS TOP, HAD A SPECIALLY QUALIFIED PERSON CHOP IT, AND TREATED THE FALLEN TREE AS AN EMEMY ON WHOM COUP WAS TO BE COUNTED.

THE LODGE IS BUILT WITH ITS ENTRANCE TO THE SOUTH. AT THE NORTH END A BUFFALO SKULL IS PLACED TO SHOW THE TRUST OF THE PEOPLE IN THE GREAT SPIRIT WHO PROVIDED THE BUFFALO. THE MEN WHO TAKE PART IN THE DANCE SIT AT THE WEST SIDE OF THE LODGE, THE WOMEN AT THE EAST. THEY SING FOUR TIMES, AND THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR IN TROUBLE MAKE A VOW TO DANCE LATER TO GIVE THANKS FOR THE HELP THEY WILL RECEIVE. OFFERINGS OF FOOD AND CLOTHING ARE MADE AND THESE ARE DISTRIBUTED TO THE LAME AND THE BLIND, TO THE WIDOWS AND ORPHANS AND THE OLD.

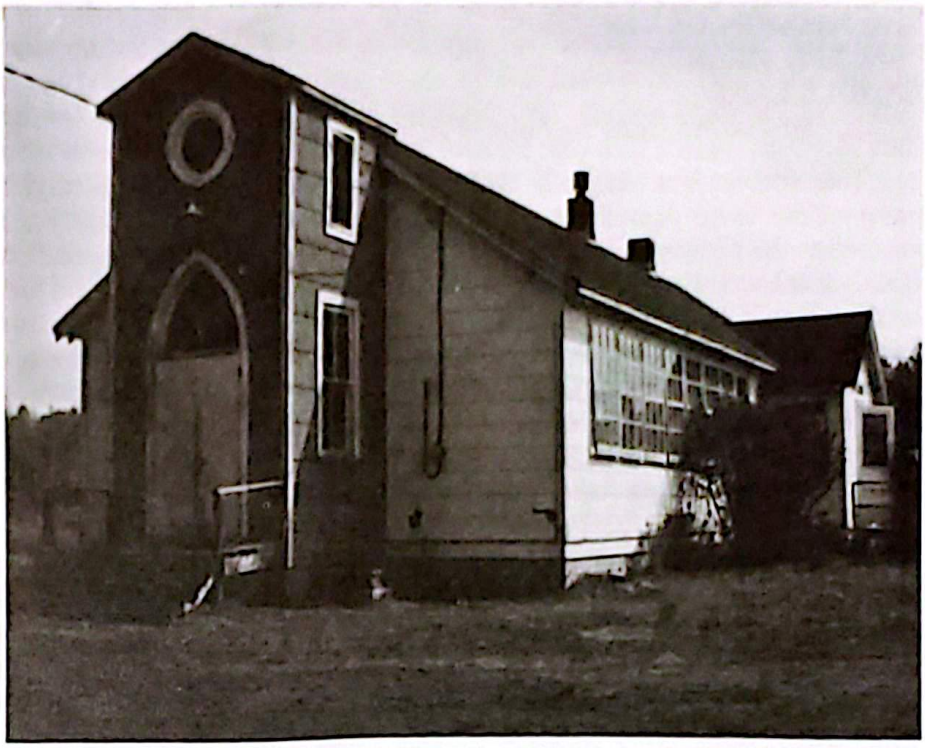
Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Cardinal. He was born in 1901. Picture taken in 1978.



Mr. and Mrs. Mark Steinhauer. Born in 1894. With their grandson Leon at 14 years old.

Ralph Steinhauer, Edward Cardinal Sr. and Gus Steinhauer in 1968.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Steinhauer (1965). Born in 1899. Clara was born in 1908.



Present United Church at Saddle Lake.

Teepee Village — Saddle Lake.

THE MISSION OF THE "SACRED HEART" — SADDLE LAKE

by The Provincial Archives of Alberta

This mission was originally dedicated under the name of the Great Apostle St. Paul, for it seemed to succeed to the Mission of St. Paul des Cris, founded by Rev. Father Lacombe, on the banks of the Saskatchewan at the place called today, Brosseau. The Mission of Saddle Lake is likewise situated on the banks of the Saskatchewan about twenty miles higher up. The Mission of St. Paul des Cris had been abandoned in 1873; that of Saddle Lake was not definitely founded until 1888.

Nevertheless, it was visited from time to time from the year 1878. It is true that the population was not very numerous. There were only ten families then living at this spot, when missionaries from Fort Pitt or Frog Lake from time to time made a short stay.

After the unhappy crisis of 1885, the Indian Department insisted on the Indians scattered to the south of Victoria and in the neighborhood of Egg Lake (today Whitford) being gathered on to the Reserve at Saddle Lake. In consequence this Reserve was increased in size and in fact became but one with those of White Fish and Good Fish Lakes, under Chief Pakan. On the visit of the Rev. Father Méer in 1886, they made great and earnest entreaties for a resident missionary in their midst, but their number was still very limited, consisting of only five Catholic families, to which must be added six others residing at White Fish Lake. It was not then possible to grant their request, but, for the two following years, they were visited by the missionary from Onion Lake.

Nevertheless, from the time of his visit in the month of July, 1888, the Rev. Father Méer perceived that this state of affairs could not last long without great danger to the faith of the Catholics, for there was a Protestant mission of White Fish Lake and the Protestant missionary sometimes came to hold religious services in their neighborhood. It is true that they went there, beads in hand, and by way of compensating themselves for the privation to which they were submitted from the religious point of view, but it was none the less a serious danger, and the wisest and the oldest amongst them did not hesitate to express to the missionary the fear that, in a few years, the children would come to confound the two religions.

Accordingly the Rev. Father Mérer made careful report of the situation to Bishop Grandin. He exposed the danger to which the faith of the Catholics was exposed in this district and the hope he had of leading back to the practices of their religious duties a good number of Christians who had been formerly baptized by Rev. Father Lacombe or other missionaires from Lac La Biche or elsewhere, and who, while living habitually at Good Fish Lake or White Fish Lake, in the neighborhood of the Protestant mission, had practically abandoned all Catholic practices and were passing for Protestants. Finally he pointed out the advisability of establishing an intermediary post between St. Albert and Lac La Biche on the one hand and Onion Lake on the other. This reasoning was accepted and the Rev. Father Mérer, who had directed the Mission of Onion Lake since 1886, was himself entrusted with the charge of organizing the new foundation. He left Onion Lake on the 13th of August, 1888, and arrived three days after at Saddle Lake.

The Indians were overjoyed to see their desires realized and they gave the missionary the best reception. For their first religious establishment they were satisfied with a little shed, built of logs and covered with earth, and leaning against the house of an Indian named Alexis and communicating with it. This provisional installation lasted for nearly two years and here the Indians were assembled every Sunday for Holy Mass, Catechism and afternoon service. A hundred persons could be crowded into the two dwellings, and the congregation was always numerous, for these good Christians, sometimes coming from a long distance, would bring their victuals with them and would not return to their homes until all the religious services for the day were over.

They could have provided themselves somewhat sooner with a less primitive assembly room but they met with opposition which it is useless to recite here in detail. Chief Pakan always remained opposed to the Catholics, and the Protestants, who were certainly more numerous, were unwilling to permit the Catholics to build on the Reserve. Nevertheless, owing to the negogiations entered upon by Bishop Grandin with the officials of the Indian Department, this discussion ended by it being made clear that the Catholics of this Reserve had also the right to have the means of practicing the Religion of their choice as well as had the others.

It must be said that the Catholics had the good sense to meet the provocations of their adversaries with no other reply than that of patience and calm, and thanks to this moderation and union in rallying around their missionary, they ended by securing their rights.

The first house-chapel, which still serves as the residence of the missionary, was built on the present site of the Mission in the course of the year 1890. It measured 32 by 24 feet and was of two floors, of which the top served as the dwelling part and the lower as the chapel. The Catholic population had notably increased. There were several abjurations and many marriages had been duly celebrated. The Catholics of Good Fish lake, although thirty-five miles distant, came regularly several times during the year on the occasion of the greater feasts, and encamped for several days round the mission, to fulfill their religious duties. Finally there were also some Half-breed families settled towards the place known today under the name of St. Paul des Métis. In consequence, the missionary of Saddle Lake at this period had the care of about 300 souls.

At this time, too, the first school was organized. The building of the school house was begun on September 19th and was finished on October 26th costing about $700. Mr. A. Betournay came to visit this school, even before the building was completed. Mr. William Todd

was the first teacher. The Agency for the Department was, at this time, entrusted to Mr. Ross, assistant to Mr. Potvin.

On the 8th of August, 1892, Rev. Father Boulenc arrived at Saddle Lake, to fill the post now left vacant by Rev. Father Mérer, who had been summoned to St. Albert to help in the duties of the parish. In September, 1894, Bishop Grandin visited the mission for the first time.

The work of evangelization had continued in a sustained manner. The frequent visits of the Catholic missionary at White Fish and Good Fish Lakes had dispelled the prejudices of the Protestants. There was no longer such marked opposition. Indeed, the priest was often sent for to the sick bed of those who were reputed to be Protestants, in preference to the minister. In 1897, on the occasion of a journey to Saddle Lake, the Rev. Father Leduc baptized the last pagan Indian. This was the old father of Crane. This old man was then nearly 80 years of age. He it was, who in 1876 had inadvertently killed the great Cree Chief Wikaskokiseyin, or "Sweet Grass," who was so well loved and respected by his race.

After the conclusion of the treaty with the Crees, during the months of August and September, 1876, the Government had made a present of some ordinance revolvers to the Indian chiefs. These were objects of curiosity for them. One day when visiting "Sweet Grass" (Wikaskokiseyin) the old man asked the chief to show him his curious firearm. While handling it and not knowing that it was loaded, he touched the trigger and the ball pierced the heart of the famous chief. It was his brother and his friend whom he had shot and he remained disconsolate for the rest of his life.

On the 18th of January, 1898, the Mission of Saddle Lake was visited by Bishop Legal. The Rev. F.H. Grandin was then in charge, having been so since October 2nd of the preceding year, with Father Boulenc remaining on, as his assistant, with the special task of visiting the surrounding posts as far as Birch Creek, and what afterwards became Vegreville.

At this period, in accordance with the desire expressed by the Government, it had been already decided to transfer the Indian boarding school from Lac La Biche to Saddle Lake. The new school house had hardly been finished towards the end of July, 1898, when the transfer took place.

The following year the new chapel was erected by Brothers Bowes and Nemoz. It was dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, thus giving the name to the Mission.

In 1902, towards the end of the month of August, the Rev. Father Grandin returned to Lac La Biche, where he had already resided for a long time, again to take charge of this Mission, but he retained, nevertheless, the title of Superior of the whole Saddle Lake district. The Mission at Saddle lake had now for its director the Rev. Father L. Balter, who had already acted as Father Grandin's assistant for three years.

There were two other humble but devoted missionaired to be mentioned as living at this time at the Mission where they had labored so much, and whither they had come to end their days. They were Brother Alexandre Lambert, who died on October 23rd, 1905, and Brother A. Nemoz, who died on July 1st, 1906, both of whom left behind them the memory of holy and devoted religious.

In 1906 the Rev. Father Balter commenced the publication of "The Sacred Heart", a small monthly journal, published in Cree and lithographed in syllabic characters for the benefit of the Indians. This newspaper soon took the place of another periodical of the same type that had been already inaugurated by the Rev. Father Lizeé at Lake St. Anne under the title of "The Lake St. Anne Cross."

The Rev. Father Balter has of late obtained a proper printing press and with the assistance of Brother Guibert to second his efforts, he is now about to present his little publication in a more attractive external guise, but which, however, has always been edited in an interesting manner and which is called upon to do much good among the Cree speaking people. Rev. Father A. Husson, O.M.I., is now in charge of the mission, but he has still the efficient assistance of Father Balter. (1914).

Historical notes and resident Priests
of the Saddle Lake Roman Catholic Church.

Father Mérer arrived to look after the newly organized Mission — August 16th, 1888.

The first chapelle and priest residence was built in — 1890.

The first school house was started on September 19th and completed on — October 26th, 1890.

Father Bouleve arrived to replace Father Mérer — August 8th, 1892.

Visile Monseigneur Grandin arrived in — September, 1894.

Father R. Therien arrived at St. Paul des Metis in — July, 1896.

Opening of new school — August 7th, 1898.

New Sacred Heart church built in — 1899.

Father Balter arrived — October 9th, 1902.

At that time the Government had the Indian Agency, land and telegraph office opened and the place was growing as the main business center of North-Eastern Alberta.

The school was closed and moved to Blue Quill close to St. Paul — December 17th, 1931.

Father Bouchard was resident Priest in Saddle Lake in — 1930-1945.

Father Le Galvez from — 1945-1951.

Father L.P. Roy — 1952.

Father P.H. Lyonnais — 1963.

Father S.P. Gagnon — August, 1966.

Father J. St. Pierre — August, 1967.

Father P. Labelle — November, 1969.

Father L.C. Latour — June, 1970.

Father G. Lagrange — June, 1974.

Father L.P. Roy — September, 1979.

Father M. McMahon — From September 1979.

THE LOCAL HISTORY

THE FIRST WHITE MAN AND WOMAN TO TRAVEL THROUGH BROSSEAU AND DUVERNAY

by Hector Coutu

To stand on the hillside looking down two or three hundred feet at the Saskatchewan River as it flows past Brosseau at the foot of the hill, and watch the gulls circling so effortlessly back and forth over the surface of the water is a pleasure of its own. And to be able to vision in one's mind the hardy explorers' and pioneers' canoes paddling up or downstream in an unknown land, adds to this a pleasure that perhaps cannot be explained. It is always interesting to stand on the bank of this river and conjure visions of the pioneers, voyageurs and traders and to relive their experiences and hardships which they had to endure and to survive in all kinds of adverse weather and conditions. "I wonder who was the first white man to come up this river and camp on these fertile flats?" is often asked. Maybe here in 1755 Anthony Henday camped with his party of explorers on his way back to York Factory on the Hudson Bay. Or maybe Jean Baptiste Lagimodiere and his wife Marie Ann spent a few days resting on the flats on the north bank of the river here at Brosseau. Or could it be possible that this is the place where the Indians found a keg of rum frozen in the ice and made merry only after it was tested on an old squaw to see if it was not poisoned.

The North Saskatchewan River was used as a trade route long before the white man poked the prow of his inquisitive canoe onto the river. As soon as the Hudson Bay Co. built its first trading post on the shores of the Hudson Bay in the early 1670's, word travelled up the river from one Indian camp to another and by the year 1700 they were making journeys that took all summer, to come and trade their furs and bring back supplies for themselves, to improve their hunting and living habits.

History tells us that on June 26th, 1754 Anthony Henday left York Factory led by a band of Indians returning to their families after trading at the Bay. By the middle of August they would be in the vicinity of present-day Saskatoon, and by mid-October they had made their way to the Red Deer River not far from Stettler, Alberta. From there he and his party went west to where Rocky Mountain House is today. He was the first white man to have travelled so far west and first to see the Rocky Mountains.

After a brief rest they started travelling northward. By Christmas the weather was so cold that they decided to make camp for the rest of the winter. In early March, 1755 as the weather was favorable for travelling, they proceeded northeast till they reached the banks of the North Saskatchewan. There they collected birch bark and with the help of the Indians they built themselves canoes. By the time the canoes were ready the ice had cleared on the river. They embarked four to a canoe and went sailing down the river with the spring current.

On that memorable day on April 23rd, 1755 Anthony Henday was the first white man to travel down the North Saskatchewan River and two or three days after his departure they could have camped or at least paddled by Brosseau on the way to York Factory, thus being the first white man to travel by this part of the country. On June 30th, 1755 his party reached their destination at the Hudson Bay Port. Anthony Henday never did return to the west but at least we know that he was the first white man to travel the North Saskatchewan by Brosseau and Duvernay.

The first white woman to come through Brosseau and Duvernay happened 52 years later, sometime in August 1807. This story began in April 1806 at Maskinoge, Quebec when Marie Ann Gaboury married a young voyageur by the name of Jean Baptiste Lagimodiere who had come back to visit his family and friends after five years in the Canadian West. Shortly after their marriage they embarked on perhaps the most adventurous honeymoon in Canadian history, heading west into country where no white woman had ever been. Until she left on this honeymoon adventure, Marie Ann had never been more than five miles from home. Coming west was her own idea, as she pointed out to her husband there was a first white woman to come to Quebec and she was going to be the first white woman in the Canadian North-West. So on the first of June 1806 they loaded all their belongings into their canoes and took off down the

Courtesy of the Glenbow Institute.

Marie Ann and Jean Baptiste Lagimodiere being greeted by the Indians on their arrival at Fort William in 1806.

Courtesy of the Glenbow Institute.

The Hudson's Bay Trading Post at Fort Des Prairie in 1806. Later it was called Fort Edmonton.

St. Laurence River, through the Great Lakes and arrived at Fort Douglas (where Winnipeg is today) in August 1806. They had travelled about 1800 miles in the first four months of their married life.

In this country where no white woman had ever been before, Marie Ann was an immediate sensation. Curious Indians came from miles around just to see her. The way they stared at her was a disturbing experience for her. To protect his bride from these curious Indians, Jean Baptiste spread the word around that she was guarded by an evil eye that could reach anybody within twenty paces that wanted to harm her in any way. It was a lot of fun to travel amongst them with her husband and to see first hand how they lived. However they soon discovered that more travelling was not going to be as easy, because on January 6th, 1807, a baby girl was born. She was given the name of Riene, the first white child born in western Canada.

After spending the rest of the winter at the fort they decided it was time to start travelling again. So in early May after the ice had cleared on the rivers and lakes, Jean Baptiste and Marie Ann Lagimodiere loaded all their belongings in their canoes and headed north on Lake Winnipeg. This time they were accompanied by three other French Canadians who had married Indian women. They did not have to bring any provisions with them as there was lots of wild fowl at that time of the year, so they planned to live off the land.

By the end of May they had reached the mouth of the Saskatchewan River where it flows into Lake Winnipeg. There they rested for a few days before they started paddling up the river towards Saskatoon. It was a long gruelling job paddling up stream day after day. When they reached the fork of the North and South Saskatchewan River they had another few days rest, before starting their journey towards Fort Edmonton. So around the early part of August 1807 the first white woman went by Brosseau and Duvernay with her husband and seven month old child. I'm sure they never dreamt when they camped on the banks of the North Saskatchewan River that 106 years later in 1913 Miss Lucy Coutu, their great-great-granddaughter would marry Joe Brosseau and a hamlet would be named in honor of his father Edmond Brosseau, who homesteaded and went into business here in 1903. Or that her great-grandson, Paul Albert Coutu would take up homesteading here in 1905 and marry Emilia Theroux and raise a family of fifteen children just five miles from where the Lagimodiere paddled by on the North Saskatchewan in 1807.

After paddling twelve hundred miles in four months they arrived at Fort Edmonton in late August and were met by an old friend of Jean Baptiste Lagimodiere named Mr. Bird who was the Chief Factor of that Hudson Bay Post at that time. He immediately offered them living quarters inside the fort for the winter. So Jean Baptiste and his wife Marie Ann spent a comfortable winter within the compound of the trading post until spring of 1808.

By the summer of 1808 Marie Ann was preparing to be a mother again. The arrival of their second child was to be a wild experience. Marie Ann was out riding with her husband Jean Baptiste when a charging herd of buffalo stampeded her horse. The frightened animal ran wild amongst the stampeding animals with her equally frightened husband in pursuit. He finally was able to get a hold of her horse's bridle and lead her away from the

danger of the buffalo herd. They immediately put up a camp and that evening Marie Ann gave birth to her second child. He was a golden haired baby boy and they named him Jean Baptiste Jr. but nicknamed him La-prairie, because he was born on the prairies about 30 miles south-east of Edmonton in the vicinity of where Camrose is today. He was the first white child born in Alberta. Three days after they rode back to Fort Edmonton where they lived for the rest of the winter.

The Lagimodiere's spent 1809 around Fort Edmonton. The following year they went three hundred miles to the south-east corner of Alberta around Cyprus Hills. There, Marie Ann gave birth to her third child, a girl and she was named Cyprus. She was the first white girl born in Alberta. Again that fall they rode back to Fort Edmonton and spent the winter inside the fort with their family of three small children.

When the spring of 1811 arrived they decided to go back to Manitoba where they had wintered in 1806-7. On May 17th, 1811 the Lagimodieres loaded their belongings and three children in their canoe and drifted down the North Saskatchewan River past Brosseau on their way to where Winnipeg is today. A few weeks after their arrival at their destination their 4th child was born.

Marie Ann never had a permanent home till Jean Baptiste came back from his history making 1800 mile walk to deliver a letter, warning Lord Selkirk about open war which was breaking out between the North-West Company and the Hudson Bay Trading Company. Lord Selkirk gave him a parcel of land on the forks of the Red River and the Siene as compensation for his services to the Hudson Bay Company. On this land Jean Baptiste built their first home. They were the first to legally own any land in Western Canada. It was situated in the center of present day Winnipeg. On January 11th, 1818 they had another baby boy, and they called him Romain. He was the Grandfather of Paul Albert Coutu of Brosseau. They had another girl, Julie, who was born on August 26th, 1820. She married Louis Riel Sr., and they had a son Louis Riel Jr. who was executed in Regina in 1885 for his part in trying to get a better deal for the settlers of Western Canada.[1]

THE FIRST MAN TO BUILD LIVING QUARTERS AND TILL THE SOIL HERE IN BROSSEAU-DUVERNAY

by Hector Coutu

Father Lacombe was visiting the Cree Indians just north of the Red Deer River during the fall of 1864, when he decided on a new plan which could bring the Indians to him at a selected location, instead of him following the different tribes all over the prairies in search of the buffalo which they depended upon for their food during the summer months.

So before he departed for his main mission at St. Albert, he held a meeting at which he outlined his new plan of action. He invited the Chiefs and Councillors to help him select a place for a permanent Mission for the Cree Indians. They accepted his idea and decided on a place they called Matapeskuteweyak, (the prairie which comes out of the river) and it was called St. Paul des Cris by Father Lacombe. When it was surveyed in 1900 it was situated on the S.W.35-55-12 West of the 4th Meridian. It was homesteaded by Edmond Brosseau in 1902 and a small hamlet bearing his name was started there at that time.

After spending the winter at St. Albert getting his expedition organized, he left in early May on a raft down the Saskatchewan River to his New Mission one hundred miles east of Fort Edmonton. The Hudson Bay Company objected to his new plan claiming that it would draw the Indians away from Fort George, which was located close to where Elk Point is today. But the Indians favored the location and that was good enough for Father Lacombe. Likewise the soil was fertile and easy to till on the north side of the river and Father Lacombe was determined to locate there in the hope of getting some of the Metis and Indians interested in tilling the soil as they were doing in St. Albert. He found a large encampment of Crees faithful to their promise of the fall before awaiting for him. They greeted him with enthusiasm, running into the water to pull his raft ashore. On this he and his faithful servant Alexis had fifty bushels of potatoes, seed grain, a plow and other provisions. His brother Gaspard and Noel Courtepatte had conveyed other provisions overland by ox cart a few weeks before, and had a shelter built. As the multitude of Indians looked on with the interest of prospective owners, the raft was unloaded and contents put inside the newly built shelters.

On the following day the young missionary started to plow the land. The women and children flocked behind him, crushing the raw earth with their hands into fine particles. A couple of days after when the ground was prepared, it was the women and children again who dropped the potatoes and vegetable seeds into the rows. The men tacitly objected to taking any active part in the work, so Father Lacombe soon found out. It was not the Metis he was dealing with here, so he put himself to work as energetically as he had at St. Albert, but with less success, because of the half-hearted assistance he was getting. Enfeebled by his unusual hardship and exertions of the past winter he fell ill. The third week in May he writes to his Superior, Bishop Tache, the following letter because he thought he would never leave St. Paul des Cris alive. "The heat of spring has changed the malady of the winter to a Form of dysentery which carries away whom it attacks. After ten days I am almost overcome by it. All our work has stopped and I can hardly look after the sick. If this sickness carries me off, at least my sacrifice has been made. I will be happy to die amongst my people, ministering to them as long as I have strength to carry on." But to his surprise he gradually recovered. When the work was done and the Indians had gone to the prairies for their annual buffalo hunt he returned to St. Albert to convalesce.

By the end of June he was strong again, so he returned to St.Paul des Cris with his brother Gaspard.

Courtesy of the Provincial Archives of Alberta

Father Lacombe: The first white man to plow the soil and grow potatoes, vegetables and grain here at Brosseau way back in 1865.

Together they improved the skeleton of the house built in the spring. Then it was back to the prairies for Father Lacombe in search of the Indian tribes which by this time were busy with the buffalo hunt.

Gaspard went back to St. Albert to get more supplies and came back in early August with two companions named Piler and Little. Together they panned gold on the banks of the Saskatchewan River till freeze up.

The first crop ever planted at St. Paul des Cris turned out not too bad, considering all the sickness they had had during spring planting. That was the first crop ever planted in the Brosseau area and it proved the good growing potential of the soil and its future as an agricultural district.

The mission became a stopping place for priests and bishops to and from their Missions and for all travellers that hailed to and from Fort Garry, North Battleford, Fort Pitt, Frog lake, Fort George, Victoria and Fort Edmonton. For the next eight years there was always somebody looking after the new mission and all travellers were welcome.

During the spring of 1866 Father Lacombe came back to plant a new crop and build new buildings. When the spring crop was planted and the new buildings were completed Gaspard Lacombe and his two gold miner companions who had spent a comfortable winter at the mission, decided to say goodbye to the good Father and resume their fruitless life to the Red River and on through to Mexico. But for Father Lacombe it was back to the prairies with the Indians.

The rest of the year 1866 was spent by Father Lacombe on the prairies. He got back to St. Albert a few days before Christmas. After a few weeks rest he set out by dog team to St. Paul des Cris. His only companion was a quaint little Irish American called Jimmy from Cork, who had drifted into Fort Edmonton and was anxious to make his way back to the Red River as soon as it was possible. His real name was Jimmy McCarthy. He was to make himself conspicuous at Fort Garry in 1870 and had even then a varied and tarnished career behind him.

Sam Livingstone and Jimmy Gibbons, two gold miners standing on the river bank at Victoria on a cold day in January 1867 as Father Lacombe was trotting behind his dog team, were astounded to find that the little man snugly wrapped in the robes of Father Lacombe's dog sled was indeed Jimmy from Cork. The hospitable miners called out an invitation to the travellers to share their mid-day meal with them. Father Lacombe, his clumsy sutane tucked inside his leather trousers as it always was when he travelled behind his dog team busied himself first with the food for his animals. But his genial little companion stepped out of the sled and patting the priest on the shoulders, said airily to his hosts, "We've had a good trip boys; this good Father is a damn good runner and he knows that Jimmy from Cork's legs are too short to run fast, so he runs while I ride." Assuredly charity of the frontiers brings strange bad fellows together at times. But it was life in those pioneer days, everybody helped one another or not very many could have survived the rough life in the wild. Jimmy was however but a ship in the night in Father Lacombe's life because two days after they arrived at St. Paul des Cris he left for Fort Pitt never to be seen again by his over generous host.

In February of that same year after a brief rest at St. Paul des Cris, Father Lacombe and Alexis made a short trip north to visit a band of Crees which were known to be camped there. When they came to the camp it had been abandoned. But they decided to camp there for the night as it was already late in the evening. After they put up their tent they heard some crying and moaning. Following the direction of the crying that broke the night, they found an Indian woman with her baby who had fled from her husband's tent when he brought another wife there. After wandering all day, she made her way back to the now abandoned camp of her people. Her strength was exhausted and her feet frozen. The child was crying from cold and hunger. Disappointed she had laid down by the ashes of the abandoned camp fires with a prayer to the master of life to spare her child. Her prayers were answered when Father Lacombe arrived on the scene. He promptly fed them and gave them his warm bed, while he kept the fire up all night. When they came upon the camp the next day the worthless husband refused to take his wife and child back to his tent again, but he was

scurried there with the lash of the black robe's tongue shaming him before his people.

Two days after they had the woman and child back at St. Paul des Cris and after a few days' rest they were taken by dog sled to St. Albert where the sisters took them into their home.

After a brief rest Father Lacombe decided to go to St. Boniface to see Bishop Tache to secure for St. Paul des Cris an allocation as a Mission with a resident priest and annual grant from the diocese, to make of it, in fact another St. Albert. But his wish was rejected for the time being and it was never realized.

On August 13th Father Lacombe came back from St. Boniface via St. Paul des Cris with the first brigade of Red River carts brought over the prairies by the Hudson Bay Company. There were eighty-two carts in all, a showing which quite eclipsed Father Lacombe's modest pioneer brigade of 1862 when he went with a group of Metis to St. Boniface for supplies to build the St. Albert Mission. At that time the brigade consisted of only 22 Red River carts. They had camped on the flat on the north side of the river here at Brosseau and he liked the place so much that he recommended the location to the Crees for his mission and it was whole heartedly accepted. But this time imagine, there were eighty-two carts all at one time. To the wide-eyed native of St. Paul des Cris the sight was as inspiring as the steam horse was to be in later years. This historical wooden conveyance of Western Canada has creaked its way into history as effectively as did Boadicea's most brilliant chariot. As though this was not in itself sufficiently wonderful, ten days after, there came creaking and groaning up the trail a second brigade of 32 carts belonging to the same company.

By this time Father Lacombe's parish at St. Paul des Cris covered all the land between the two arms of the Saskatchewan River and included Crees, Blackfoot, Sarcee, Stony and Metis. It was a stopping place for priests, bishops and all kinds of travelling laymen coming from east to west, north and south.

During the summer and fall of 1870, Father Lacombe was sorely pressed ministering to his flock of Indians, who were nearly all down with smallpox. Many flocked to him at St. Paul des Cris, and night and day for weeks he was kept busy caring for the sick, administering the sacrements and burying the dead the best he could. At St. Albert, all the priests were stricken with the disease. When word reached him at the little mission he hastened to their help as soon as he could get away.

Shortly after this in 1872, Father Lacombe was called out of the far west to serve in other lines of duty. He closed the St. Paul des Cris Mission and for the next thirty years it was left to the mercy of the Indians, trappers and occasional traveller. Today a fine church crowns the hill and looks down upon the flats where he once had laboured. At this point one of the many beautiful bridges spans the thousand foot river. Also here one of the first high voltage transmission lines was strung across the river to go on north to serve the town of St. Paul, another of

Courtesy of the Provincial Archives of Alberta

For winter travel Father Lacombe had to depend on dog teams such as these. He could make it from St. Albert to St. Paul des Cris in three days along the North Saskatchewan River.

Father Drouin unveiling plaque in honour of Father Albert Lacombe.

the many settlements started by Father Lacombe. By a curious coincidence the man who designed the line and chose the route was E. G. Kelly, the grand nephew of Father Lacombe.

Between the fading lines of the St. Paul des Cris journal which Father Lacombe had in his possession, written on a leaf of foolscap pages folded to about four inches in width, with a tattered brown manila cover, this although not complete, keeps definite records of many of the goings and comings of the brave and kind-hearted old priest of those days and fortunately so, for even his memory, so retentive ordinarily of details has but incomplete records of those days gone by. His rapidity of movements confused even himself. You can read of much wonderment and much leisure on the part of the sundry dusky braves, who joyed themselves in counting the carts as they passed rumbling and creaking down the dusty trail at St. Paul des Cris on that August day in 1867. They could almost envisage the modern era coming around the corner.

At Brosseau on the 31st of August 1975 a dedication ceremony was held in memory of Father Lacombe, organized by the Indian Affairs and Parks Canada. At the invitation of the Honorable Judd Buchanan, Minister of Indian Affairs, over five hundred people took positions on the north bank of the North Saskatchewan River where the program was conducted on a platform flanking the memorial. The legend of this famous missionary of the Alberta plains will be preserved as a small park in his memory.

Honorable Ralph Steinhauer, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta who's home is located seven miles north of this little park and who had the opportunity to meet Father Lacombe in person when he was a young lad, agreed that this site was the most suitable historical spot on the banks of the mighty North Saskatchewan River where Father Lacombe had often travelled the river in the typical scows of those days.

Before unveiling the plaque William C. Turnbull, Director of Western Regions, Parks Canada, representing the Honorable Judd Buchanan, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development said "that the people of Canada, with this commemoration plaque, honor the life of Father Albert Lacombe for the work he did while the Canadian West was still in its infancy. Indians, pioneers, explorers, missionaries were the westerners of Canada when Father Lacombe travelled in this territory. He also played an important part in our local history, which had a special effect on this district, by being the first man to plow our soil and reap grain, potatoes and garden produce from this fertile land of ours. We commemorate him here today for the man he was, the great work he did and the contribution that he made to building our Canadian History."

The dedication was made by Reverend Raymond Roy, Bishop of the Diocese of St. Paul, followed by the unveiling, jointly by William Turnbull and Rev. Emeric Drouin O.M.I. (Archivist, Alberta-Saskatchewan Oblate Province) who gave the historical background of Father Albert Lacombe's life in Western Canada.

TRAVELLING THE NORTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER IN EARLY DAYS

by Hector Coutu

The North Saskatchewan River was the main highway of the Canadian Northwest before the turn of the century and gave access to any part of the country. By travelling up the river to its head near the height of land, making a short portage over the divide to a stream flowing down the other side one could reach the remotest outposts. It served as the main highway through St. Paul des Cris in the early years for the fur traders, missionaries and pioneers. About half a mile up the river from the Brosseau bridge was a shallow river bed which was used as a river crossing for thousands of years before the white man ever set foot in this part of the country.

The first and most ideal conveyance on the Saskatchewan River was the birch bark canoe. For thousands of years the Indians travelled by water in these frail shells up and down the rivers and through foaming rapids. None, therefore, could be better fitted to teach the white man the secret of handling these crafts than were they. The canoe was usually big enough to carry four or five people, yet so light that one or two men could carry it over the portages. After travelling all day it could be turned up side down on the river bank for a peaceful sleep within its shelter.

The canoe was to the Indians and the white men who adopted it, what the horse was to the Arab, the dog was to the Eskimo, or the camel was to those who journeyed across the deserts. It was a boat, or a house; it

Courtesy of the Provincial Archives of Alberta

The York boat was used to haul freight from Winnipeg to Edmonton. Ambroise Grey got a job paddling one of these monsters on its way to Edmonton past Brosseau as a boy of 18. He liked the place so much that he came back and homesteaded the south-west 34-55-12-4, three quarters of a mile west of the bridge. He spent the rest of his life here.

could be carried long distances over land and from river to lake, It was frail beyond words, yet you could load it down to the water's edge; sitting in it you could gather wild rice, catch fish or shoot game. It could dash down stream, through foaming rapids or lie like a bird on water. This was the way Jean Baptiste Lagimodiere and his wife Marie Ann paddled their way past Brosseau-Duvernay on their historical journey to Fort Edmonton in 1807.

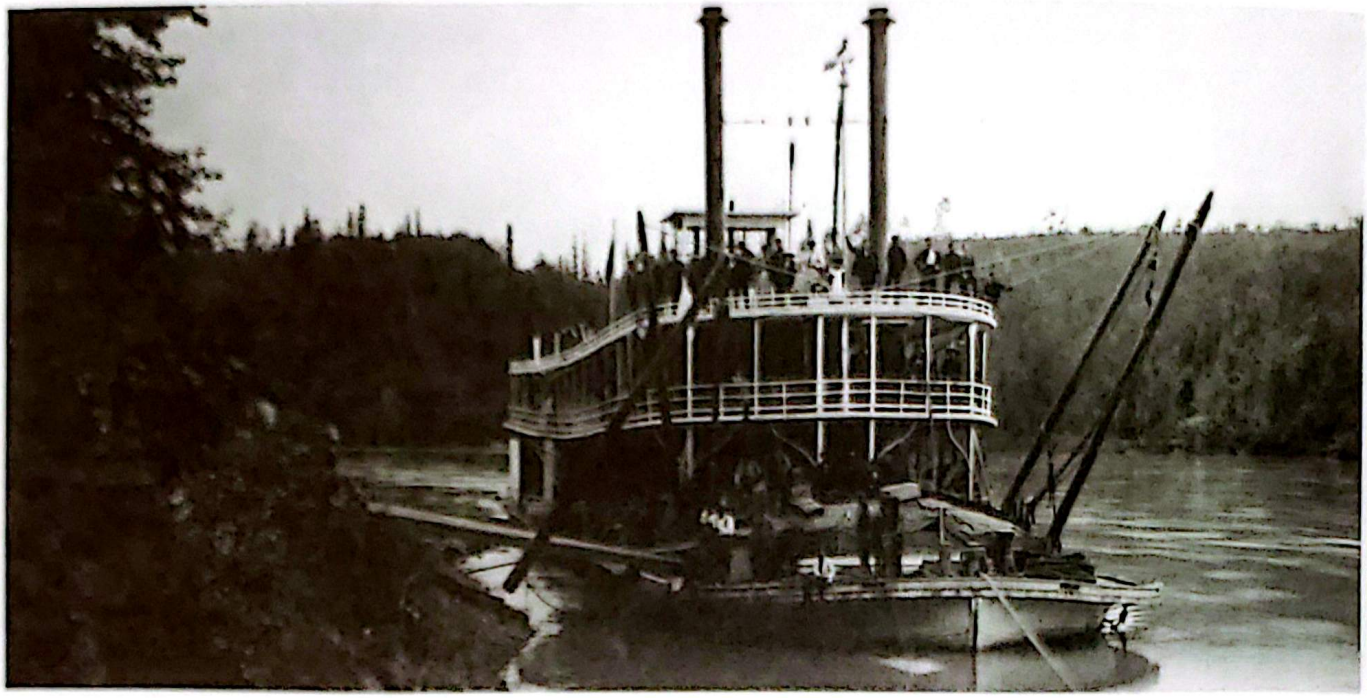
The Northwest Company and, in the earlier days, the Hudson Bay Company also adopted the canoe, but since it was needed for freighting, they built one somewhat larger. They made it large enough for six or seven men. The crew usually consisted of a bowman, a steersman and four or six paddlers. When loaded it carried about three thousand pounds of freight. It was flat bottomed because it often had to be used in shallow waters. It had a speed of about six miles an hour on a quiet lake.

The Saskatchewan River was an ideal waterway because from Lake Winnipeg to the mountains there was only one place that had to be portaged due to shallow water. There were, however, two other swift stretches of water on the Saskatchewan called the tracking grounds. One of these was at the Victoria Mission, about halfway between Brosseau and Edmonton. When the tracking ground was reached, the men had to get out and walk along the shoreline and pull the boats upstream. Two men remained in the boat to keep it straight, while the four or six paddlers harnessed themselves to the towing lines by means of their portage slings. These were attached to the lines and passed over their shoulders, across their breast and under the arm, by which these men were enabled to exert all their strength and were also kept from falling during this tedious labour. It is sometimes hard to imagine the hard work that these men had to endure in those pioneer days to help bring civilization to this vast country of ours.

The Hudson Bay Company used these freight canoes for some years, but later developed a boat of its own called the York Boat. These boats were bigger than the new canoes of the rival and could carry eighty to ninety pieces of ninety pounds each, a total of about four tons per load, almost twice as much as the freight canoes. They could be handled by the same number of men, but were somewhat slower. The York boat was much safer on rough water and could make use of sails, whereas a canoe dared not for fear of tipping over in rough weather.

The first York boat was built on the Saskatchewan at Manchester House in 1788 to haul pemmican down the river to Cumberland House situated where the river flows into Lake Winnipeg. As there was more freight going down the river than up, boats were built at all the pemmican gathering sites and taken down the river and abandoned. As the years went by, Fort Edmonton became a favorite place for building these boats and men were kept busy year round at this new trade.

The York boats were a far cry from the frail, graceful canoe of the Indians but they outlasted their rivals because you still see them all over the rivers and lakes as a well-enjoyed pleasure craft. These York boats were heavy, unsightly and extremely labourous to propel, but they were efficient, and that was why they were favored over other means of transportation. One days' rowing or tracking them up the river would be almost impossible for a man of today, who is accustomed to an easy eight hour shift, but these tough and hardy boatmen continued at it day after day. They started every morning at the break of



Courtesy of the Provincial Archives of Alberta

In 1871 Donald Smith introduced this paddle wheeler on the North Saskatchewan. They often stopped in this area to leave freight and passengers off. In the early 90's Elmer Ross and Jim Carlisle came via the Northcote with their families and stock. Jim lived at Father Lacombe's abandoned mission. They both left the area when the surveyors made their appearance. They wanted no part of the new life they were to bring.

day and stopped once for a midday meal, then continued steadily on till about an hour before dark, allowing the men just enough time to prepare for the night. The only rest allowed was at intervals of about an hour, when they stopped for a few minutes to fill their pipes.

The next major stride was the introduction of the steamboat on the Saskatchewan. In 1871 Donald Smith initiated a move for a system of paddlewheel steamers that could operate in shallow water. One was to run up Lake Winnipeg to Grand Rapids, while the other was to operate up and down the river between Grand Rapids and Fort Edmonton. Grand Rapids was at the mouth of Lake Winnipeg where the mighty North and South Saskatchewan river flows into Lake Winnipeg. The Colville operated on Lake Winnipeg and the Northcote travelled between the rapids to Fort Edmonton. To unload their cargo from one vessel to the other a tramway was built along the rapids, and all freight had to be transferred from one to the other via this tramway.

The second year the business became so busy that they found it advisable to have another boat on the river. So the Northcote ran between the Grand Rapids and Prince Albert, while the Lily took over from Prince Albert to Edmonton.

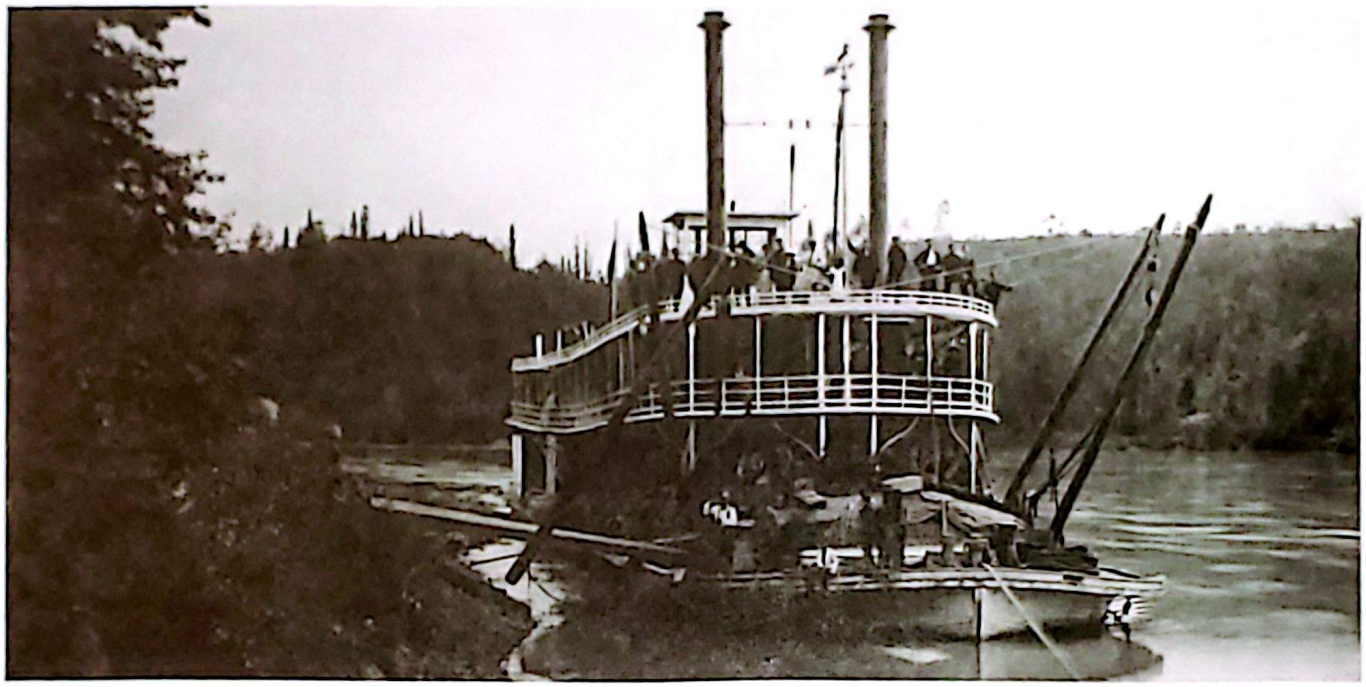
The fares from Fort Edmonton to Fort Garry (Winnipeg) were eighty dollars for first class and twenty-five dollars for second class, which was below deck. Full course meals were fifty cents. Freight rates were six and a quarter cents a pound. The boat left Edmonton June 15th, and arrived in Prince Albert June 20th. Usually passengers had to wait a day or so before the Colville arrived. It took ten to twelve days to make the trip to Winnipeg.

Various other paddlewheelers were put into operation on the Saskatchewan. Finally two companies were competing for the river trade and boats were making regular trips along both branches of the river. From Lethbridge they steamed down to the forks where the two rivers meet, then upstream to Edmonton. These boats operated for some years without bringing more than just a handful of new settlers to Edmonton, and it was not till the early 1890's that landings began to be made at intermediate points to allow settlers to disembark such as in the Brosseau area and other points along the Saskatchewan. The Northcote used to stop quite regularly at St. Paul des Cris, as this was on the main trail to the north and the Battleford trail to the south.

The first rancher to come to St. Paul des Cris was Elmer Ross and his brother-in-law Jim Carlisle. They came on the Northcote around 1892 with their families, household effects, stock and ranching equipment. Elmer squatted on the S.W. 34-56-12 west of the 4th and Jim and his family took up residence at what was left of Father Lacombe's Mission, as it had been ravaged by a prairie fire a few years back.

Many tales were told about these giant paddlewheelers being stuck on sand bars, and other difficulties on the Saskatchewan. In the fall of 1879, the Lily calmly sank at the mouth of the Red River Creek, a few miles below Fort Saskatchewan and the passengers had to proceed to North Battleford by row boats. She was raised and brought back to Edmonton. Each night, when the water was low on the Saskatchewan, these monsters had to be anchored to shore.

Just before the turn of the century, in 1891, a big change came to northeastern Alberta, when the Canadian National Railroad completed a line that started in Winnipeg in 1881 and was completed to South Edmon-



Courtesy of the Provincial Archives of Alberta

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Various other paddlewheelers were put into operation on the Saskatchewan. Finally two companies were competing for the river trade and boats were making regular trips along both branches of the river. From Lethbridge they steamed down to the forks where the two rivers meet, then upstream to Edmonton. These boats operated for some years without bringing more than just a handful of new settlers to Edmonton, and it was not till the early 1890's that landings began to be made at intermediate points to allow settlers to disembark such as in the Brosseau area and other points along the Saskatchewan. The Northcote used to stop quite regularly at St. Paul des Cris, as this was on the main trail to the north and the Battleford trail to the south.

The first rancher to come to St. Paul des Cris was Elmer Ross and his brother-in-law Jim Carlisle. They came on the Northcote around 1892 with their families, household effects, stock and ranching equipment. Elmer squatted on the S.W. 34-56-12 west of the 4th and Jim and his family took up residence at what was left of Father Lacombe's Mission, as it had been ravaged by a prairie fire a few years back.

Many tales were told about these giant paddlewheelers being stuck on sand bars, and other difficulties on the Saskatchewan. In the fall of 1879, the Lily calmly sank at the mouth of the Red River Creek, a few miles below Fort Saskatchewan and the passengers had to proceed to North Battleford by row boats. She was raised and brought back to Edmonton. Each night, when the water was low on the Saskatchewan, these monsters had to be anchored to shore.

Just before the turn of the century, in 1891, a big change came to northeastern Alberta, when the Canadian National Railroad completed a line that started in Winnipeg in 1881 and was completed to South Edmon-

Courtesy of the Provincial Archives of Alberta

When the railway came to Edmonton, settlers would load their belongings on scows and float down the river to their destinations. The Lapierres, St. Hilaire, Brosseau's and many others came here that way. Edmond Brosseau kept his store supplied that way till the C.N.R. came to Vegreville in 1905.

ton ten years later. No sound was more welcome to the settlers who had waited expectantly than the sound of a locomotive whistle.

But the locomotive's bell rang the death knell of the steam boat on the Saskatchewan River. For a few years the paddlewheelers dallied in effete idleness and tried to make a comeback by taking the citizens of Edmonton, Prince Albert and North Battleford on moonlight leisure cruises, but after a short life spent in honest, useful toil, this new life was not what the paddlewheelers were meant to be. Eventually, they were tied up and retired from service, their days were ended but their tasks had been well done.

The last to use this great highway of the northwest were the settlers like the Brosseau's, Belisle, Lapierre, Sherstianka and many other pioneers of Brosseau and Duvernay who came to settle in this area shortly after the turn of the century. They built large scows out of planks and on these they piled personal belongings, kitchen utensils, furniture, food supplies, tools, machinery and stock. Finally the women and children were added to this load and away they went with the river current, down the river. Some of them had their scows wrecked on the rapids just below Victoria, about half way between Brosseau and Edmonton. When their destination was reached, the scows were taken apart and the lumber was used for building material.

OVERLAND TRAVEL IN EARLY YEARS

by Hector Coutu

Early travelling by land was done by a horse with two poles tied to its shoulder with the other end dragging on the ground, on which a buffalo hide was fastened making a kind of basket to hold provisions. The Natives used this method of transport for hundreds of years before the white man came. As we all know, for fast transportation they rode horses, winter and summer. The dog team was maybe the most versatile way to get around in winter time but could not carry much of a load, nevertheless it was the most commonly used mode of travel by the people of the west at that time. One advantage was that they could travel many days with little food and when night came they could hide in the snow bank to keep warm.

Around 1850 every trading post built up herds of horses and trained them as pack horses. It was quite a common sight to see forty or fifty pack horse trains leave a post carrying goods and provisions cross country to replenish supplies at other trading posts. It was a means of transportation that could be used winter or summer. As more and more people came and settled in the west, and people began to scatter all over this area, supplies had to be hauled in much faster, so that was when the Red River carts made their first appearance on the scene. What the covered wagon was to the settlers of the Western States, the Red River cart was to the prairies. It was a two-wheeled vehicle entirely of wood, with wheels five feet in diameter and a box capable of holding up to eight hundred pounds slung over the axle between these two large wooden wheels. It was drawn by a pony and averaged about twenty miles a day when fully loaded. Brigades of these carts could be seen travelling by St. Paul des Cris in groups of ten or more, sometimes strung out along the rough roads for a mile or so along these river flats. The continuous squealing of their axles was the most memorable feature of these crudely built vehicles of that era. Such a calvalcade may have been picturesque, but meant long hours and hard work that these freighters had to go through to open this part of the country that we live in today. Even at that, to be a freighter in these caravans was one of the freest and happiest occupations in those days. Sometimes you could hear them singing old French songs above the sound of the squealing wheel, as though they really were musical instruments to their ears.

As we stated before, Father Lacombe at St. Albert in 1862 organized the first brigade of Red River carts to come from Fort Garry with supplies via St. Paul des Cris. Five years later the Hudson Bay Company began freighting the thousand miles over the same route to Edmonton. Their first brigade consisted of eighty-two carts and it was followed ten days later by thirty more. It took about fifty days for a one way trip. No doubt civilization was claiming the nice flats around St. Paul des Cris with all this activity. At that time it was one of the busiest crossroads in western Canada.

Courtesy of the Provincial Archives of Alberta

For short distance he could use a horse travois to haul his supplies.

When the Canadian Pacific Railway came to Edmonton in 1891 a new brand of settlers came to this part of the country. The Red River cart was replaced by wagons pulled by a team of horses or oxen. Sometimes you could see a horse and an ox pulling the same wagon.

Settlers came in to Edmonton from all over the world with their families and belongings in special settlers' railroad cars. When they arrived they camped in tents or in any other lodging they could find, until they had filed on a piece of land. Generally, but not always, the men of the groups went out to see what the land was like before filing on it. When they came back with their $10.00 receipt with their land location on it, they gathered together their belongings and bought whatever they could afford to start their new homes. To many that was the first time that they could say that they really owned their own land and it was really something to look forward to. In a sense it was like the young couple that are so happy to move into their new home today, only they did not have a heavy mortgage at high interest rates and monthly payments to pay, all they had was will power and as they soon found out they needed lots of that. One thing we should not forget is that if it had not been for these new settlers taking a chance to come and settle in this new world, most of us would not have the nice life we enjoy today.

When the weather was favorable it took about five days to complete a one way trip by team to Brosseau from Edmonton. Some travelled by the north trail through Victoria and others used the Shandro trail south of the Saskatchewan River.

What a blessing it was to the new settlers when the Canadian National Railway built a line from Saskatoon to Edmonton in 1905. In a short time freight depot and passenger service was available at Vegreville. It cut travelling time to Brosseau to two days instead of five from Edmonton.

In 1906 Joe Zeigler got the first contract to haul the mail to Brosseau, St. Paul and Cold Lake. He used a four seat light wagon (Democrat) pulled by four fast horses. In winter he used a covered light sleigh. In these modern

vehicles of those early days, eight people could be seated comfortably, plus room for their luggage. The fare was one dollar per person to Brosseau. The stage left Vegreville daily at 10 A.M. with the mail and arrived at Mr. Noe Theroux at Old Warwick about 12 noon. There Mr. Theroux had fresh horses ready. While the fresh team was hooked up, the passengers had tea and a warm lunch and were on their way again within fifteen minutes. It would take five hours to get to Brosseau, a distance of forty miles cross country, as there was no fence line at that time. These horses travelled at full trot all the way. The first miles were slowest because the stage was well loaded when it left Vegreville. Every time they stopped they unloaded passengers, mail and luggage, thus making the load lighter and better time could be made.

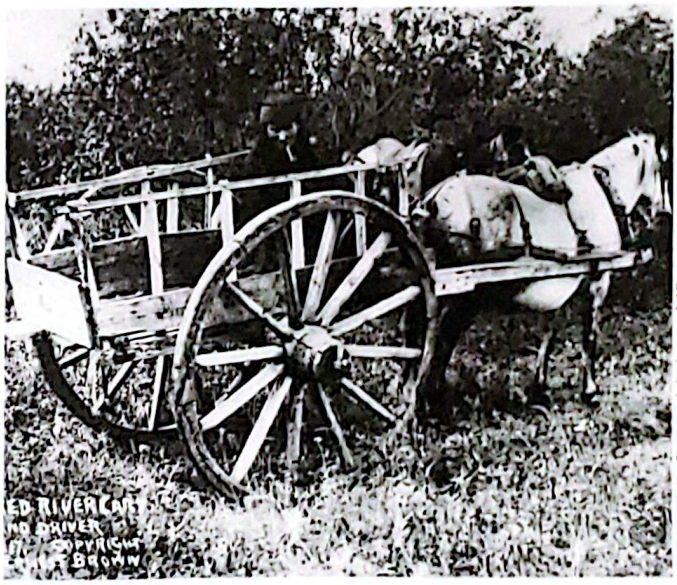
As many as three stages left Vegreville daily for Brosseau-Duvernay and all points north. These were put into service by Basil Theroux, Joe St. Peter, Richardson and many others. At that time owning your own stage was quite a fluorishing business to get into. Just imagine, if you had eight passengers plus some freight you could gross ten dollars per trip. At that time nobody worried about the cost of getting into business on their own. The main thing was that if they were lucky and could take the trade away from the others, they could clear maybe six dollars a day. By today's standard that wasn't much but in those times it was a lot of money, so competition was fierce at times. Some promised better service than others, such as in winter some of the stages furnished warm bricks to keep the passengers' feet warm as they travelled from one stopping place to another. The draw-back with this system was that after two or three hours the bricks would get cold. Mr. Basil Theroux, when he got into the stage business, guaranteed a system to keep his passengers' feet warm for the whole trip. His new system was to place a dog at their feet and cover him with a blanket. Even Basil with his new system did not last too long in the stage business. Maybe after a few dogs got sick, due to the lack of fresh air and dirtied the passengers' new suits or too much cussing at his horses, he was forced out of business like many others.

To handle all this traffic other stopping places were put into service such as Mr. Emery Theroux, Edmond Smith, Berlinguette, Taylors and many others. These stopping places were busy every evening, because this was halfway to Vegreville and the loaded teams had to spend the night to give their horses a well deserved rest. On their return it was the same, because they always came back loaded. At that time all the traffic from the north overnighted in Brosseau or Duvernay.

To accommodate this influx of traffic the Riverview Hotel was built in 1906 by Dubar and Desilet in Duvernay. The first manager was Napoleon Despin. Shortly after, Mathias Lambert bought the place and operated it himself for a number of years. Then in 1920 Mr. Louis Rioux took over possession of the building. He added an extension and opened a General store in it. It was closed down in 1943 and was eventually taken down.

Courtesy of the Provincial Archives of Alberta

The old and the new style of winter travelling before the turn of the century.



Courtesy of the Provincial Archives of Alberta

In 1862 Father Lacombe travelled along the North Saskatchewan through Brosseau on his way to St. Albert with 42 Red River Carts loaded with supplies for his new mission. Then in 1867 the Hudson Bay Company came through with a brigade of 82 carts. Ten days after it was followed by another brigade of 32 more. That was the beginning of the heavy traffic through Brosseau. Instead of the Red River Carts creaking by at two miles an hour, travelling from east to west, the traffic travels at a whistling speed north and south.

In 1905 Mr. W.R. Smith had a team of oxen to do his freighting.

Across the river in Brosseau, Alphonse St. Hilaire built the Richelieu Hotel in 1907 on the corner of Brosseau Street and River Avenue. The first manager was Tom Lavoie. He was manager for five years, then he went to St. Paul and bought the Lavoie Hotel. There were twelve bedrooms on the second floor. On the first floor there was a kitchen, dining room, sitting room, pool room and a bar. Rooms were rented at $1.00 per day. A pitcher of cold water was included in all rooms for washing or drinking. Hot water was available at extra cost. Full course meals were 25¢. Beer sold at 10¢ a quart. A 26 oz. of hard liquor sold for $1.25. It was sold over the counter at 2 oz. for 25¢.

After Tom Lavoie left for St. Paul, Leonard Girard was the new manager. He was replaced in 1916 by Frank Plouffe. In 1922 George Emes bought the hotel. He operated it till 1930 when it was closed down and finally taken apart in 1934 to be just a passing memory.

At that time where there was a hotel it was a must to have a livery barn to look after the horses, so in Duvernay, Mr. Mathias Lambert had one built next block south of the Riverview Hotel. In Brosseau, Albert Duquette built one next block north of the Richelieu Hotel. It was 125 feet long by 30 feet wide. It could accommodate twenty teams. All barns had bunk houses for the teamsters that could not afford the luxury of the hotels. It was free of charge to whoever had horses in for the night. It was equipped with a cook stove, table, coal oil lamp and a bunk. You had to furnish your own food and blankets. It cost 50¢ per night per team if feed was supplied or 25¢ if you had your own feed. Horse trading was big business in those days and you could be sure there always was a horse trader around for the evening sessions in these bunk houses. Many a tall tale was spun as they sat around the camp stove. When they got dry they would all chip in and send somebody to the hotel to get a pail of beer which they bought for $1.00. The more they drank the better their horses were. Sometimes it turned into fights. Many a wager was placed on who had the best horse or horses which had to be proved as soon as the daylight came next morning. There always were some willing traders the night before, but many got the worst of the deal and left with a worse team than they had arrived with the day before.

One day a horse trader came into town and you can be sure the first thing he did was walk down through the barn and look at all the horses for a potential trade. This one horse caught his eye. The horse did not look too good now, but if he fed him well for a few weeks he would make a perfect match for one of his. So he walked into the bunk house and inquired about the owner of this particular horse. When he found the owner he made sure to point out that his horse looked a lot better than the one he wanted and that he was willing to make an even trade. This old Frenchman said that he was right, that his horse did not look too good, so he really did not want to make a trade. The horse trader was a little baffled by his honesty and said "Even if the horse does not look too good I still want to make a trade, I'll give you $10.00 if you make a deal." The old Frenchman said "I'm telling you my horse do not look too good but if you really want him that bad you sure can have him."

The next morning the horse trader took his horse out of the barn for a drink. On his way out the horse banged his head on the door jamb. When he got to the water trough he walked right by. By now the new owner thought there must be something wrong with the horse. So after taking a good look at his eyes, he found out that the horse was partly blind. He walked to the bunkhouse and, grabbing the old Frenchman by the throat, he said "You traded me a blind horse without telling me so." The old man said "You said it yourself and I told you many times that that horse did not look good; now do not blame me for your misunderstanding." As you can see, even a well experienced horse trader sooner or later met his match.

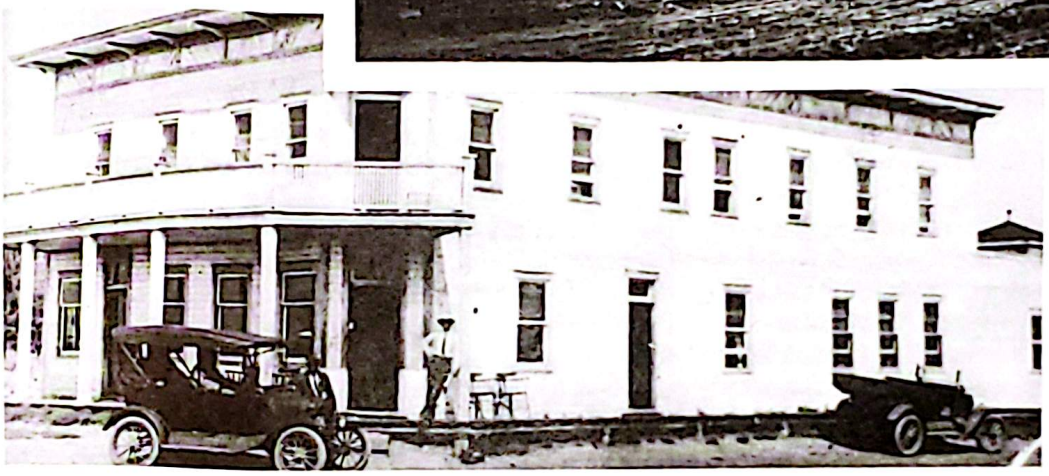
The farmers of this region would congregate and travel in convoys to Vegreville where the grain elevators and livestock yards were.

Before the building of bridges, rivers had to be crossed. Fording them was the only way. The early pioneers of Brosseau and Duvernay had to do so until the first ferry was put into operation in 1904.

In 1916 Leonard Girard started a daily service from Vegreville to Cold Lake by car. They would leave the C.N.R. depot at 10 a.m. sharp with the mail. They would arrive at Brosseau for dinner and if the weather was favorable they would arrive at Cold Lake by 6:00 p.m. Unfortunately, most of the time they arrived late. He had two cars in operation, and it took two days for the return trip. This daily service was in operation till 1920.

When the Canadian Pacific Railway was completed to St. Paul, this was the beginning of a big change for the

Riverview Hotel built in 1906 by Dubar and Diselet for Mathias Lambert. Later Mr. and Mrs. Louis Rioux bought the business. Next is Tobin Brunelle's Blacksmith Shop and Lambert's livery barn.



The Richelieu Hotel built in 1907 by Alphonse St. Hilaire on the corner of Brosseau Street and River Avenue. Picture taken in 1924.

population of the area. Instead of taking four days to haul their produce to the rail head in Vegreville, it took only two days for a return trip to St. Paul, where the Canadian National Railway started operating a daily service on October 21, 1920. Stage service was discontinued to Vegreville. At that time many residents had cars and it just took a few hours to go and do their shopping in St.Paul.

Crossing the North Saskatchewan River in early years was done by fording the shallow water about half a mile up the river from where the bridge is today. Many a stirring tale is told of days spent trying to get a few carts loaded with supplies or a herd of cattle across the river.

When the settlers started arriving in 1904 Mathias Lambert put the first ferry into operation about a quarter of a mile up the river from the bridge. It was a small ferry and it held only two teams at a time. In 1907 the Alberta Government bought out this ferry and put a bigger one in operation about 100 feet down the river from where the bridge is today. It could hold eight teams at a time plus their cargo. It was 20 feet wide by ninety feet long, built completely of three inch planks. It was built like a boat only it had a plank top to hold its cargo. The cracks were caulked with oakum and tarred. Even with all this precaution, water still seaped in and made it necessary to bail or pump the water out daily.

A one and a half inch steel cable was strung across the river on top of the first river bank, about fifty feet above the water. The ferry was held to this cable by two cables connected to sheave pulleys which ran on the main cable. By angling the ferry northeast, the force of the water on its side would propel the ferry to the south bank and angling it the opposite way it would propel it to the north bank. The ferryman's job was to go from bank to bank as long as there were passengers to cross. He was on call 24 hours a day. It had a small 6x12 shack built on the down stream side of the ferry with a bed in it. He was allowed to charge after midnight but the traffic at that time was very light. There was a bell by which travellers on the far side of the river could summon him at any time of the night. No matter what time it was or how hard it rained, he had to crawl out of bed and cross the river to get his waiting passenger. For this service, the government tariff allowed him to charge the magnificent sum of five cents per passenger. They had cheap transportation across the Saskatchewan River at that time, and even at that there was a lot of competition to see who got the job as ferryman for the year.

In the spring of 1928 traffic waited for hours for their turn to cross the river on the busy ferry. One day Alberta Premier Brownlee came to cross on the ferry and was waiting in line for his turn to come, when somebody was sent to tell the ferryman (Basil Theroux) that he was in the line-up and wished to be allowed to cross before his turn came up. Mr. Theroux said no, as the rules were that everybody had to wait their turn and he was no

1st Avenue, Duvernay 1913. In the background is the first St. Laurent Church before the steeple had been completed. On the right side of the street was the Duvernay livery barn.

exception. So when Mr. Brownlee's turn came up Mr. Theroux explained that the rules and regulations were that everybody had to wait their turn without exception and that he was sorry but the regulation was made by the government and he had to abide by it. He pointed out to the Premier that there was a great need for a bridge at Brosseau as he could see by the traffic and hoped that he would use his influence to get one built as soon as possible.

Anyway nobody knows for sure why but, within a month after his confrontation with the Premier, Mr. Theroux was relieved of his position of ferryman for the Brosseau-Duvernay crossing. The excuse was that he was yelling and cussing too much to the public and everybody that knew him, knew that he was very good at that; or was it because the Premier waited too long in the lineup and did not like to be told off?

The new ferryman that was appointed by the government was Mr. Blair. He was not an experienced ferryman and got himself in trouble shortly after he started his new job. One day he had loaded the ferry with three teams loaded with oats and one empty driven by Alex Kabage, plus a few passengers. As they were leaving the north shore the ferry tilted to one side causing the ferry to be submerged in the water on the downstream side and out of the water on the upstream side. The teams and loaded wagons all slid to the low side of the ferry causing more confusion. With all this excitement the ferry cables broke and away they went down the river. All the passengers got in the row boat which was always tied to the ferry in case of such accidents, and paddled their way to safety. Alex and George Emes stayed with the runaway ferry. They proceeded to unhook the horses off their wagons and chased them off the ferry and into the river, hoping that the lighter load on the ferry would let it float out of the water. Even after all the horses were driven off, it was still totally submerged under the water. So Alex and George, wet like rats, crawled on the roof top of the shack and drifted down the river with the current, not knowing what was going to happen next. As luck would have it, six miles down the river, the ferry hit a sand bar and came to a dead stop. They were two happy boys when they saw the row boat coming down the river to rescue them. Within two days the ferry was brought back and put into service again. Luckily there was no loss of life. Even the horses all swam to shore safely.

Nobody knows what really caused the mishap, but people who should know came to the conclusion, that this new ferryman did not pump the water out of the hold underneath the floor of the ferry, and when he let the loaded wagons on, he did not distribute the load evenly on the ferry causing the water in the bottom of the ferry to shift to the downstream side thus causing this mishap. Anyway, I am sure Basil Theroux laughed under his whiskers about the event even as he helped to his fullest to get the ferry back into operation again.

The only life lost during the 26 year history of the Brosseau-Duvernay ferry was in 1929. Mr. Fernando Lord with his touring Ford car was the first to get on and when he got to the far end of the ferry, we presume his brakes failed and he drove off into fifteen feet of water. By the time they were able to get him out he was dead.

The first ferry was put into operation in 1904 by Mathias Lambert, half a mile up the river from where the bridge is today.

The following is the list of the ferrymen who operated the ferry in its 26 year history. As we stated before, Mathias Lambert built the first ferry and operated it till 1907. The Alberta Government bought it out and put a larger ferry in operation at that time. Other ferrymen were Mr. Azarie Venne, Mr. Antoine Brault, Mr. Frank Lapierre, Mr. Johnny Foisy, Frank Plouffe, Mr. Basil Theroux, Mr. Blair and Joe Archambeault. Mr. Basil Theroux was operator for seven years. Even if he was hard to get along with, he was considered the most reliable operator of them all. He was also instrumental in getting a bridge built in 1930, when he told Premier Brownlee it was time to have a bridge built here to handle this heavy volume of traffic he had just witnessed, even if it most likely cost him his job.

In 1926 the Canadian Pacific Railway built a rail line to Two Hills. With this coming of the railroad another sign of progress was unfolded, when six tall red grain elevators were built, which meant that the settlers could change their ways of farming. Till then they depended mostly on ranching for their livelihood, but now with the closeness of the grain elevators they switched to grain farming. When they heard of the railway coming they cleared and plowed more virgin land in 1925 than they had cleared during the first 23 years of the settlement's existence.

With the building of the bridge in 1930 and the heavy traffic between Two Hills and St. Paul, a highway had to be built, so on June 19, 1937 Hon. W. A. Fallow minister of public works announced the start of construction of the St. Paul-Vegreville highway by way of Brosseau-Duvernay Bridge. This gravel highway was completed in 1938. By 1954 this highway got pretty rough and needed repairing badly, so a new grade and gravel road was built on a straighter route. The following year it was paved. Then again in 1978 a portion of this same highway was torn apart and completely rebuilt. Also in 1978 a new bridge was built to accommodate the ever increasing traffic, that comes all the way from Lethbridge in the south, Fort McMurray or Cold Lake in the north and Edmonton in the west.

As you can see today it is still the main crossing over the North Saskatchewan River to the far north and south as it was hundreds of years ago before the white man ever came to settle in this area. Today instead of like the first settlers who travelled with their Red River carts or team of oxen at two miles an hour over rough road or having problems fording the river here at Brosseau-Duvernay, we travel by car over a brand new bridge and smooth pavement at sixty miles per hour.

Around the turn of the century people came from all over the world to take up homesteads, until finally a homesteader was living on every quarter-section. Roads were built and a post office was established. Stores, hotels, livery barns and many other conveniences were built and now are only memories. Experience, a hard teacher, was enabling the settlers to cope with the pioneer problems and civilized condition began to prevail. Today as we drive out from Edmonton over hard surface roads in a couple of hours and see few trees, but fields of ripening grain all over the countryside, it is hard to visualize that scarcely eighty years ago, trees covered much of this land.

Gone now is the explorer's camp fire and the fur trader's canoe. Gone are the river steamers and the Red River Carts, gone are the log and mud shacks of the pioneers and the pioneers themselves. We, who built on the foundation they laid, must not forget them. They are our roots.

TRANSPORTATION ON LAND

by anonymous donor to L. Robinson

Transportation in early days is the action or process of carrying persons or things from one place to another, and the means used for such conveyance. It is the first step toward civilization and a principal element in its development.

The Indians had only the dog and the horse and used them to draw their travois laden with their goods, children and elders.

The movement of the population which resulted in the occupation of the West was done by virtually every known form of transportation then known. Some came on horseback, like Edmond Brosseau, who left the Cariboo gold-fields proposing to return to Quebec. Arriving in St. Albert via Monkman Pass he decided to settle there instead. Basil Theroux, Fred Schoff and Pigeau came from the U.S.A. by covered wagon. Some had mules or oxen.

Long or short, the roads at first were only trails used by people on foot or on horseback. The next step was to open the road, that is, to clear a strip 20 feet wide along the trails. This resulted in roads with many stumps and mudholes. Some roads were corduroyed; split logs were laid across them, side by side, the round side up.

An angry traveller wrote, "I have lately had the misfortune to ride on the roads of the district, and my escape from broken bones has been miraculous, wagons breaking down, falling into gullies and bridgeless creeks to be forded!"

Better roads brought lighter and more comfortable conveyances. The horse and buggy was the car of the day. It was the ambition of every young man to own a buggy and a fast, high-stepping horse of his own. On summer evenings or Sundays a girl's "beau" would dash up to her door. Controlling the dancing horses they would drive off in style. In winter he would drive a smart cutter and depart to the tune of silvery bells.

Some new arrivals would travel by train to the end of the line — Edmonton. From there other conveyances would take them to their destination — the homestead.

In 1908 the famous Ford Model T appeared on the scene and the motor vehicle began to completely displace the horse and animal transportation was used decreasingly. Soon trucks and automobiles were used extensively. Roads have improved immensely. Modern

technology has devised vehicles designed for speed, heavy loads and capable of travel long distances with a minimum of problems. Now-a-days, going one hundred miles for coffee is not impossible or unusual as some young people can attest. But, reaching a destination is not always guaranteed — crash, bang and all that is left is a pile of twisted metal, broken bones or lifeless corpses!

SETTLEMENT AND FARMING IN THE BROSSEAU-DUVERNAY AREA

by Hector Coutu

In our enthusiasm, we have got ahead of ourselves. We have built railroads, bridges, paved highways and built grain elevators at St. Paul and Two Hills, but have not as yet brought any settlers. So going back to the turn of the century the Immigration Department of Canada, launched an advertising campaign within Canada and foreign countries for settlers. This campaign was especially focussed on the area that is now the Provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba. To add to this persuasiveness of the advertising, the euphemism "The Last Best West" was the caption adopted.

Really this was not a misnomer, because as a whole, this area contained an apparent potential for almost all the necessities of life. To achieve this potential, the land homesteaded, first had to be developed by the settlers in order that a greater variety of the necessities of life could be produced for the general betterment of all the settlers.

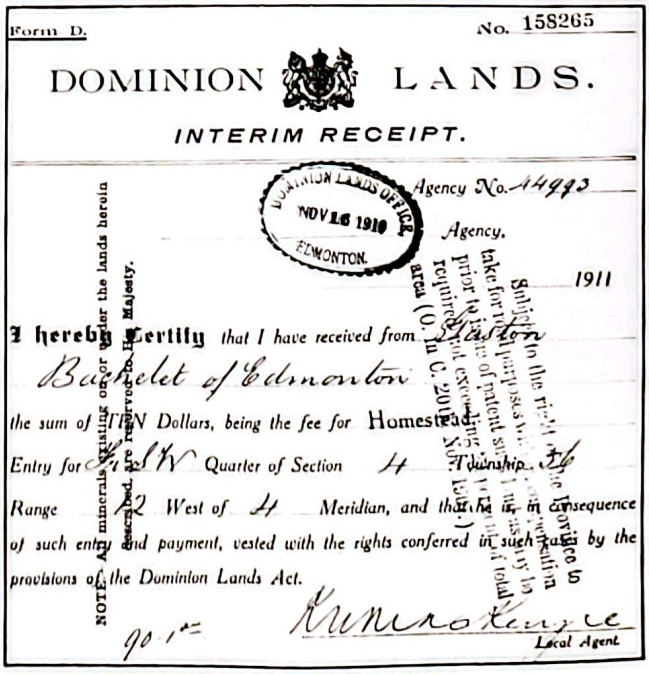
With this advertising, settlers came from all over Europe and Eastern Canada to take homesteads in this new country of ours. Just think; a huge tract of 160 acres that could be taken for the small sum of ten dollars, otherwise theirs for only working hard on it; almost free in terms of money and boundlessly free in things of the spirit. The Canadians of the third, or even the second generation, do not understand what this country meant to these immigrants from Europe. He is apt to forget the progress made around Brosseau and Duvernay in a scant seventy-five years of his existance. His Grandfather came as a poor man from a country hampered by petty feudal restrictions, where to obtain a bare living meant unceasing work, and where the quarrels of kings might at any moment bring wars on him and destroy the fruit of his labours. Work he did not mind, so when he applied it to his 160 acres of rich black soil, it came home to him in thoughts of well filled barns and cellars. He was law abiding and found there was only a minimum of laws in this country for him to abide by as compared to the one he had just left and none of them were oppressive. Taxes he had to pay, but only to himself and his neighbors, so that they may have roads and schools for their children. Education, unheard of, for him in his home land, could be had freely here. Add to all this the happiness of sitting on the river bank or hillside on a summers evening and looking over his own parcel of land, one gets an idea of the gratitude he had in his heart for this great land.

So he wrote back to his people in the old land and explained to them the freedoms and opportunities that were his, and that they too, should come out and partake of it. As soon as he could afford it, he sent for his wife and family and relatives. The brothers and cousins came and lived with them till they found land for themselves.

Other families left nice comfortable homes and steady jobs to come to be their own boss on a quarter of land out in this wild country. The man could hardly wait to get to his own land, but to his wife, the whole undertaking, or as she regarded it, this uprooting, was filled with sadness and heartbreak. She could not see why they should leave their comfortable homes and steady jobs to come and settle in this wild country. When the eight day trip from Montreal to Edmonton was accomplished, she found herself in a new world where people chewed tobacco and Indians wandered amongst their tents. To her the country was exactly what it looked like; a fearful place with none of the comforts of civilized living. The muddy streets where teams were stuck every day (even on what people called Jasper Avenue), the false fronted one story wooden stores with gum chewing owners, all this made Western Canada a nightmare to her. Why all this rawness should be accepted in exchange for the peace and comfort of the modest style of living they had left behind in Eastern Canada, was one thing she could not understand. Where were the fruit orchards and fields of golden grain, which the Railroad Companies had advertised to lure these people to come to this wild country?

Her husband, however was in his element. This was the best of all possible worlds to him. Here was freedom he had never seen before, the air was so fresh and he had a lot of space in which to breath. No more regular hours, no more grouchy bosses; hard work certainly, and longer hours than ever before, but at least he was his own master and that meant the whole world to him.

The area that these settlers came to was South



Form D. No. 158265

DOMINION LANDS.

INTERIM RECEIPT.

DOMINION LANDS OFFICE NOV 16 1910 EDMONTON.

Agency No. 14993

Agency,

1911

I hereby Certify that I have received from Bachelet of Edmonton

the sum of Ten Dollars, being the fee for Homestead

Entry for S½ NW Quarter of Section 14 Township 56

Range 22 West of 4 Meridian, and that I am in consequence of such entry and payment, vested with the rights conferred in such cases by the provisions of the Dominion Lands Act.

90 1/2

Local Agent

NOTE. All minerals in or under the lands herein described are reserved to His Majesty.

Typical homesteader shack of 1905.

Bend, North-West Territories as it was called when immigration in these parts started around the turn of the century. Elmer Ross came by steamer (The Northcote) in 1892. He built some buildings and started a ranch on the north bank of the Saskatchewan River. Mr. Ambroise Gray bought his improvements for three hundred dollars in 1902. He filed for a homestead and got his title in 1904. When the province of Alberta was formed in 1905, the place name was changed to Duvernay, Alberta by a group of the town headed by F. X. Boileau. The town north of the river was called Brosseau in honor of Edmond Brosseau, its founder.

Township 55-12 west of 4th. and 55-ll west of 4th. was surveyed by E. W. Hubble and completed in 1895. North of the Saskatchewan River, Township 56-12 West of 4th. and the west half of township 56-11 west of 4th. was completed by J. L. Cote in 1904.

To survey the brush and timber, an eight to twelve feet wide swath had to be cleared to avoid interferance with the surveyors instruments. These lines through timber or bush were called cut lines.

The land was surveyed into townships of 36 sections of 640 acres each. Each section formed one square mile. Section ll and 29 were known as school land. If it was not centrally located for the school, it sometimes was exchanged for a more centrally located section. In our area all odd numbered sections were granted to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company as a free grant for construction of the rail lines in Western Canada. This meant that the C.P.R. got half the land in the area before the railway was even put through. Two sections in every township were known as Hudson Bay Land. These also were donated to the Hudson Bay Company for services rendered.

The sections were numbered with Roman Numerals on round iron stakes one inch in diameter and approximately three feet long with 6 inches of the top square for topographical numbering of the section. The bottom end of the stake was pointed and they were, after properly numbered, driven in the ground at the north-east corner of each section. Apparently these markings were made by a sharp chisel for marking iron and Roman Numbers were used because of the predominance of straight lines.

At every alternate mile, that is every other section, there was a section survey line east and west, every two miles and four rods was reserved on the north side of the alternate section for the road allowance. When the south to north four rod width road allowance intersected it was the crossroad.

At half mile intervals, both from the north to south and from the east to the west on the section lines, the surveyor and his crew dug four holes about ten feet apart and two feet square, to a depth of about sixteen inches and a dirt mound was made at the perimeter. At the exact topographical location of the quarter section corner a wooden stake was driven into the ground, near the mound of dirt with numeral quarter cut into the stake near the top.

Around each two sections there was a four rod wide road allowance. Each quarter contained 160 acres, providing there was no error in the survey line or due to lakes, rivers or other obstructions. Surveying was a job that demanded exactness. In addition most of the work was hard physical labour. This with the unpredictable weather, flies and mosquitoes at certain times of the season made the worker's living conditions almost unbearable.

Land surveying was done in this area, when there was little or no frost in the ground. In case there was a lake, river or other natural obstruction which prevented a section stake being driven at the north-east corner of the section, the stake was driven as near to the obstruction as possible and the distance to the proper location was stated on the survey stake.

As a compass points about 18 degrees east of the north, it was necessary that the north survey line be

corrected at about every 24 mile interval by moving the road allowances westward the necessary distance for complete adjustment and the south to north survey line continued veering slightly north eastward from the correction until the next correction line.

Settlers homesteading before 1905 were entitled to all minerals on and under the soil. From 1905 onward, all mineral rights were reserved by the crown, so that from that date on, all the settlers who homesteaded only got the top soil, plus vegetation grown thereon. Almost all the settlers in this area proved their homesteads after that date, therefore they did not own their mineral rights.

It is almost impossible for us to visualize the efforts that were necessary for the first settlers to select what appeared to be a suitable homestead. He had to locate the section number by reading the Roman numerals on the survey stakes, then make certain the quarter section number on the land he had chosen was correct. Many made a second and third choice in case someone had been ahead of them and had made application on that quarter he had chosen. Then they had to travel to a Sub-Lands Agency or to the Dominion Land Office which was at the Saddle Lake Agency, to make application for a homestead entry. If he was of foreign birth or nationality, he had to apply for Canadian Citizenship first. He would then return to the land he had selected and start his homestead duties which consisted of constructing a livable house, cultivate 30 acres of land, fencing the whole 160 acres and construction of out-buildings for his livestock. All to be completed in three years. This boiled down to lots of hard work and long working hours. In the mean time these settlers had to live in tents, makeshift shelters, covered wagons or dugouts in the side of a hill while building themselves a more permanent home.

These people who made application for a homestead were from many walks of life and many parts of the world and being of less than half a dozen nationalities who had made Application in this area. They had come here where most of them hoped to establish a home and start a new life for themselves and their families. To attempt such a venture, all had one thing in common, a great amount of ambition. To reach this area, most prospective settlers travelled by steam boat or by railroad at settler's rates. From there they reached their homestead by oxcart or horse drawn wagons.

The ones that came by train brought their own lunches or did not eat unless they bought apples, peanuts or popcorn from the "Newsey". Meals on the train at one dollar a plate were more than they could afford. The train stopped at divisional points in order to take on coal and water for the locomotive. There the passengers would be able to buy a full course meal for .25 cents from the Chinese cafe which was always located close by; that was if they could get sitting room during the half hour the train stopped.

The railroad coaches were heated by a potbellied stove at one end of the car, while several gas lanterns hung from the ceiling above the aisles. The floor was made of wood but sometimes there was a strip of carpet down the center of the aisle to walk on. The seats, though upholstered in leather, were hard and had a straight back. They could be laid down flat to sleep on at night. Rest rooms and washrooms (such as they were) were available. Ladies at one end of the coach and gents at the other end. There was a smoking section on the most luxurious coaches so that cigar and cigarette smoke would not bother the non-smokers. Air conditioning came through an open door or window. It was nice fresh air as long as the smoke and ashes from the locomotive did not come first. Drinking water was available at each end of the coach and paper cups were provided. However, it was very likely that the cup you just filled with water would collapse in your hand before you were able to get it to your mouth and you would end up with a wet lap and not have quenched your thirst, so it was quite common for people to have their own aluminum collapsable drinking cup when they travelled in these cars.

After they left the trains they unloaded their belongings and bought what they could afford and travelled in search of their homestead in covered wagons pulled by oxen or horses, leading cows behind the wagon. If the cow had a calf they would load the calf in the back end of the wagon and the cow would lead without any problems. But sometimes if the cow had no calf she would not want to lead and the poor settlers had more problems than they had bargained for. The chickens, ducks and geese were crated and were tied on each side of the box. While the family and all their possessions sat comfortably inside the overloaded wagon.

Some settlers like the Lapierres, Brosseau, Sherstianka and many others purchased lumber and built scows which they floated down the Saskatchewan River after loading them with their personal possessions and families. They then beached their loaded scows as near as possible to where they had planned to take up homesteading and used the lumber from these scows for construction of their new homes.

With wild fruit, big game, wild fowl and fish, for those who had money to buy livestock and farm machinery or had brought these necessities with them, would be considered well off people. The first year was always the worst but if they could gather enough feed to winter their livestock they were well away. If they ran into bad luck everybody was always willing to do their best to help one another. The farm wives took pride in growing large gardens and kept themselves busy in the summer picking wild fruit which was always plentiful.

There were some very hard winters such as 1918, when a heavy frost which hit the whole country in early July, dashed all hopes for the gardens and crops. That year at least they had lots of feed for their livestock as the settlers cut their crops down and used it for forage. In 1919 a heavy snow fell in early October and all crops stayed under the snow. The farmers had to go into the fields and dig the feed out of two or three feet of snow. Feed was very hard to get due to the unexpected early

Grandfather, Abel Girard's shack on his homestead — NW¼ 10-56-12 W4.

winter and at a terrible price. Mr. Metro Kupchanko traded the straw thatched roof of his neighbors barn and replaced it with lumber, so he could have the straw to feed his starving animals. Thousands of animals died that winter due to lack of feed.

Progress was slow due to the lack of money. This was probably one of the understatements of the times, as money was in short supply after two years without a crop.

Work was to be had on railroad construction, such as clearing right of ways, building railroad grades, hewing of railroad ties and bridge timbers, which was all done in the bush by manual labour. A lot of farmers were looking for work to supplement their farming operation and were glad to do anything to get back on their feet again. Mr. Gaston Bachelet worked on the railroad line from Vegreville to Camrose and earned one dollar a day plus living allowance. That was a top wage at that time. One problem was to get to these jobs. A person could walk for days and when he got there find no work available.

Wages as common labourers working for sawmill operators, a minimum of ten hours per day, were twenty dollars per month including board and room. The employee supplied his own bedding plus his own transportation to and from the logging camp.

Many settlers especially the ones that came from eastern Europe went to work in coal mines to help their families to survive. They left their families on the homstead and sent money home to pay for their back debts and help to pay for improvements being done. Wages were not very high but it helped, and finally he was able to quit his job and come and stay with his family, something he had looked forward to for a long time. There were a few jobs available in the district and although there was an oversupply of work to be done, it usually was done between neighbors in a co-operative way and no money was involved. Everybody helped one another, without even thinking about pay.

Some settlers spent winters away from their homestead, cutting logs and making themselves some lumber to build their own buildings or to sell or trade to their neighbors. Others spent the winter fishing and hauling their catch south to sell for ready cash. The ones that had good horses and sleighs would haul lumber to the nearest market and if he could get a load of merchandise on his return trip for some of the many small stores on the way, he usually took his pay in trade, which helped to feed his family in the same way.

The team of horses used for this kind of work had to be good and well fed. Teamsters had to know more than just how to sit on their load and hold the lines in their cold mitted hands. Travelling in cold weather over the long trails was difficult for man and beast. A snow plow was unknown then and snow drifts and fallen trees across the trails had to be removed by manpower. Each freighter carried an axe, shovel, logging chain, feed for his horses, lunch for himself and other necessary articles in case of emergencies.

These settlers that had to work like that and had to spend a minimum of six months on their homesteads to establish residence in accordance with the regulation of the Dominion Land Act, found the situation a bit more difficult.

Homesteading years were years of hardship and seldom did anyone escape this ordeal. This was especially true of those who were forced to speak a new language, learn the customs of a new country and in most cases learn to farm. Some of these people had always lived in towns and cities and were accustomed to many conveniences and found adjusting to their new environment very difficult.

One new settler describing the slow and hard progress he believed he had achieved while doing his homesteading duties, remarked. "I hope the next time I homestead, it will be in the city".

They were all good neighbours and good citizens but some left their homesteads when the necessary improvements were done to be eligible for their title and never did return. The bachelors were luckier than a married couple with a family, because all they had to worry about was themselves. They could go to any real

The pioneer home of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Ouellette taken in 1912 on the S.W. 34-56-12-4. Note the nice flowers growing on the roof.

Mrs. Marc Girard and family with Grandfather Abel standing in front of their house on the N.W. 10-56-12-4 (1917).

estate office and get $800.00 cash for any quarter of land with a clear title. So most of them that had had enough of homesteading were glad to take that and get away from it all. Married couples were not so lucky because they could not just pack up and go away like that. They had a family to pay fares for and the moving of all their belongings would take all of the $800.00 they received as payment for their land. Anyway it turned out that it was for the best because, the ones that held on to their property till 1910 were able to get up to $2500.00 per Quarter. There was talk of a railroad being built from Vegreville to Cold Lake and farms were in big demand. Even after the talk of the railroad died down prices of land held their own.

Most of the settlers had hard times but they gained an education by experience such as, being able to dig a well at home, after hauling water from a spring a mile away. By now they had experience in building construction — homestead style. They learned fencing, clearing the land the hard way with an axe, brought land under cultivation with horse or ox power. Sometimes they hired to get their breaking done or exchanged work with their neighbor who owned a team and plow. They did donation work on the road allowance and trails, by making mud holes passable, installing culverts and small bridges made of logs. Every little bit they did, helped to cement the friendship between neighbors.

It would be impossible to write about all the settlers who had homesteaded as some one would surely be missed. However, the majority of the folks were good neighbors and good citizens and they had lots of fun and laughter along with the hard work over the years. Although everyone worked hard, they also played hard and they worked just as hard to try and get along together, no matter what nationality they were.

People would load their families into wagons and go and visit friends miles away. It would be approximately an hours drive now but then it may have been more than a days travel. They would stay for a few days, providing of course, that they had been able to get someone to do their chores during their absence. When visitors like that arrived, often the children and some of the adults had to sleep on the floor, as there were seldom any spare rooms for guests.

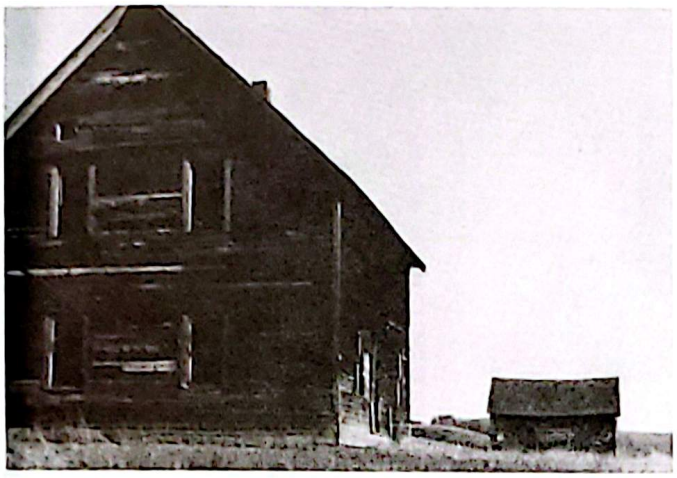
Many houses that were big enough for a house party or dance, had rough floors. In such cases where a wedding or party was to be held in a house such as this, neighbors would arrive with their wood planes and some sort of nail-set to sink the head of the nails into the rough lumber deep enough so the blades of the planes would not be dulled and would smooth the lumber, making it easier for the dancers and making a better floor for the owners thereafter. Now that the floor was well planed and the furniture moved aside or to an adjoining room and any one who could play, sat down and tuned their instruments, everybody danced to the good old time music. At 12 o'clock the ladies who had brought cake and sandwiches as well as spoons, cups and necessary dishes, so that the hostess would have enough to serve the entire crowd. Quite often guests would dance until dawn, then go home, do the chores and continue their regular days work without going to bed.

There were also Christmas concerts with all the pupils entertaining. After the concert somebody dressed up as Santa Claus and donated gifts and candy to all the pupils. The evening ended with lunch and coffee for all. It was a yearly event that nobody missed.

At the St. Laurent church at Brosseau, card parties, pie and box socials were often held. Lots of fun was had when a certain gentleman would bid on a certain fancy box of pie or a certain basket when he was advised ahead of time that it belonged to a certain girl. The man that bid highest got it and the lady that brought the basket had lunch with the purchaser. However, there was always additional lunches for those who had not purchased a basket or pie.

There were community picnics held at most of the local schools. Baseball and softball tournaments were held every year at Brosseau and Duvernay and for a few years at Champlain School. These picnics were usually quite large and people travelled from miles around to attend. Some picnics had foot races for the kids, tug-of-wars, etc. The prizes were small and inexpensive but were appreciated by those who were lucky enough to win. Every picnic had its concession booth, where you could get hot dogs, soft drinks, ice cream, cigarettes and so on. Coffee was made by the boiler full. These picnics were usually terminated by a dance in the local hall, on a platform made specially for the occassion or in some neighbor's barn loft. Most of the time home brew was available outside, to those that could afford it or would take a chance on consuming the concoction.

At Brosseau in the early years they held an annual church picnic. Chicken dinner was served on the grounds — 25¢ for all you could eat. Baseball and all kinds of entertainment for children and adults was held on the



Coutu's abandoned farmstead built in 1918. During its 60 years of existance 14 children were brought up within its compounds. Many parties, weddings and happy events took place during that time. Today, like many others in the district, it is but a passing memory.

grounds. In the evening there was a card party and bingo. The evenings ended with a sing-song, while local musicians entertained.

Many of the original homesteaders have moved away or have gone to another and hopefully a better life. As of today most are retired and many of them have passed away after the hard life during their pioneer days.

The good old days have all left their mark one way or another on all of us. Furrowed brows and white hair from worry and crippled limbs from hard work left their marks on the oldtimers who are left to tell the story.

The younger generation (the ones who have remained in this area) are continuing to farm on land that was covered by timber in the early years. Their life will not be easy either, but we trust that our honest efforts during the early years will be appreciated and prove not to be entirely in vain.

The methods of farming are modern now and the farms are larger. Modern equipment can accomplish in a very short time what it took the homesteader months and sometimes years to accomplish. However, today the purchase and operation of this equipment that is being manufactured for agricultural purpose is almost prohibitive.

The majority of the original buildings are long gone, some were torn down, some just collapsed due to the passing of time and lack of use, while others were bulldozed down to make room for more modern buildings. The homes that once housed laughter, tears, hopes and dreams of entire families are no more. The little flower gardens that struggled so valiantly for so many years have either disappeared entirely or are overgrown. The building sites are overgrown with fireweeds, thistles or other weeds and in some places trees, while on other home sites the entire area is under cultivation.

But such is progress. There have been many changes over the years and one wonders what the future will bring to the modern farmers of this area as time goes by.

FARMING OF LONG AGO

by Lucia Robinson

The virgin soil had to be prepared. These people had come from various homelands, Eastern Canada and the United States with the idea to be free and own good farms which would eventually make them prosperous. They anticipated hard work and were ready to undertake this enterprise. The land had to be cleared of trees and the stumps pulled out and destroyed. There were no big tractors or cats at that time so all had to be done by manual labor, back-breaking though it was. The sod was then broken with plows (some crude home-made ones while others had been brought from their original homes) drawn by oxen, mules or horses. The seed grain from bags could be scattered by hand or, the more fortunate farmers had drills. When the crops were ripe they would be cut with scythes, sickles or binders, raked and stooked. Threshing, separating the grain from the straw was sometimes done by flailing. But from the early years in this district some farmers had their own threshing machines. They were itinerant, travelling from farm to farm, to bring in the crops. Most farmers of the district would help on the crews, thus earning the money to pay for their threshing with exchange labor. Threshing though, was a busy time but it was like a big picnic. The women worked from dawn to dark preparing big meals for the hungry men. Breakfast, dinner and supper were usually sumptuous meals, and lunch had to be carried to the field in the afternoon. Food was needed for these men because it was at this time of year rather cool and often windy. The men started their day tending their horses before breakfast. Then, out to the fields to fill their racks with bundles that had dried in the stooks. Field pitchers helped the drivers. The loads were then taken to the separator where they were pitched into the elevator and through the separator to come out as straw in a big strawpile and kernels dropped into receptacles, bags, wagons or granaries. If the weather co-operated threshing could be finished before the snow flew!

Later, this grain had to be transported to town where the grain companies had built their elevators; sometimes these were located a great distance from home. The farmers and freighters would congregate at the ferry waiting to cross, and there were times when this cavalcade would line up all the way down River Street on the Brosseau side, to the General Store. These freighters suffered from the weather and fatigue but their visits in town were usually enjoyable. Shopping in the larger stores gave them more variety. Congenial meetings with friends in homes, cafes, hotels and bars put them in jovial moods for the return journey.

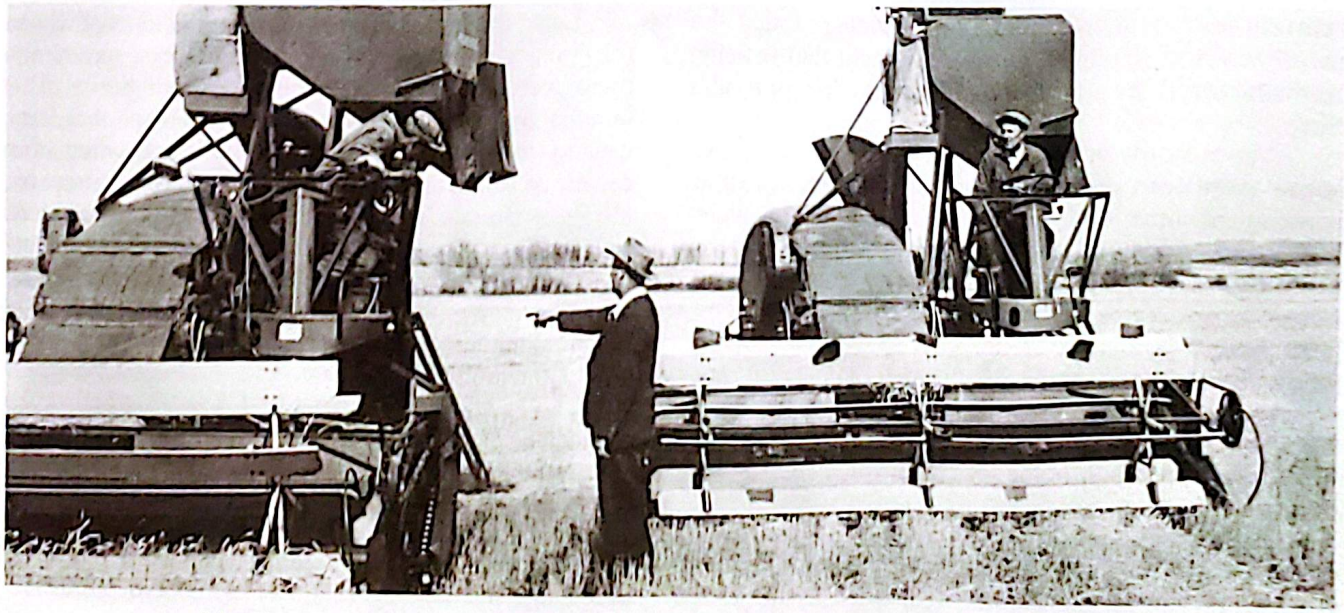
The same procedure was followed when they herded their cattle or horses to the stockyards. At the river some were crossed on the ferry but often they were forded across the river. Spectators lined up along the bank to witness this stampede which was quite exciting.

Other farm products, cream, butter, eggs and meat were either peddled from farm to farm, or traded at the store for groceries.

Three set of horses all ready for a days work.

4 binders cutting for Steve Plaska, brothers John and Mike. Walking behind are the stookers John Pundick and Pete Zelenka. In 1932 the wheat ran at about 30 bushels an acre.

4 sets of horses cutting wheat at Gongos farm in 1932. From left to right — Mike Plaska, Steve N. Plaska, John N. Plaska, Nick Gongos. At the front is Nick's father and a nephew just leaving the barn at noon hour.



John Chrapko watching his brother, Mike, explain the operation of a combine to the hired help in 1943.

THE HOMESTEADER OF 1905

by Hector Coutu

The homesteader of 1905 was ambitious, gregarious, hardworking and optimistic as he wrestled his quarter section from the wilderness, built his log cabin and broke the land; he could see a great future for the west. Because this offer was not limited to Canadians thousands of immigrants came to Alberta from the United States, England, Scotland and central Europe.

When the land seeker arrived in Alberta, he found that there were no taxes excepting in the incorporated towns or where the farmers themselves levied taxes to pay for schools and roads. These ranged from $7.50 to $10 a year on each quarter section.

When he was ready to supplement his farm with stock and equipment the homesteader found that the prices were not unreasonable, considering that he was in a frontier area. Three year old steers sold for $35 to $40, milk cows $30 to $50, work horses $250 to $350 per team, driving horses $100 to $150 each and ponies $20 to $35 each. His equipment was also reasonable. Binders could be bought for $150, mowers $60, rakes $30, walking plows $20, sulky plows $55, gang plows $75 and disc harrows $40.

The cost of living in 1905 was not too hard a burden. Sugar was about 6 cents a pound, tea and coffee 30 cents a pound, bacon 13 cents a pound, flour $2.75 per 100-pound sack, and rental for houses in Edmonton, Calgary and Lethbridge about $10 a month.

If he lacked sufficient funds to remain on his homestead throughout the year, the immigrant usually sought work in the neighborhood. In 1905 the going wage for an experienced hand was $20 a month with room and lodging. A greenhorn could expect a little more than his room and board. In the town a capable bricklayer or plasterer received 55 cents an hour, carpenters 35 cents an hour, and laborers $2 a day.

THE HARDSHIPS OF FARMING OF YEARS GONE BY

by Hector Coutu

Before the white man ever interfered with this country, it consisted mostly of hilly, black sandy soil with scattered clumps of poplar and willows with lots of open spaces, which was ideal farming or grazing country. In the low spots such as around lakes and rivers and the numerous muskegs there were nice stands of spruce trees.

These settlers had to clear fifteen acres to prove their homestead, so naturally they broke the land where there were fewer trees. As time went by they cut down the clump of poplars and willows and broke it up also. Some places there were lots of stones. When Joe Marsh and his son Albert were striking their first furrow on their newly acquired farm, the plow bounced out of the ground and fell on its side and Albert all surprised asked his dad what had happened. Mr. Marsh calmly said "we hit a stone".

John J. Plaska & Fred Plaska plowing with 2-14" plows on their Dad's farm in 1945, making summerfallow.

Steve Plaska going to seed grain with a drill for Joe Brosseau, 1928.

Albert couldn't figure out what a stone was doing in the ground but to his dismay he soon found out that there were a lot more and spent many days hauling stones off the fields and I am sure to this day he never did see the reason why there should be stones on anybody's land.

The settlers who had located close to rivers, lakes or muskegs had much bigger trees to contend with. There was no point in cutting the tree down because it would have left a big stump, which would make it impossible to take out. So they dug around the roots as far as they could reach with a shovel, cut the visible roots on the opposite side where it was leaning, then waited for a good strong wind to help him bring the tree down; or sometimes they climbed up the tree and tied a long rope and used a horse to bring the tree to the ground. After the tree was down with most of its roots out of the ground, the tree was trimmed of its branches and made into logs to be used for buildings or lumber. The smaller part of the tree was cut up as firewood.

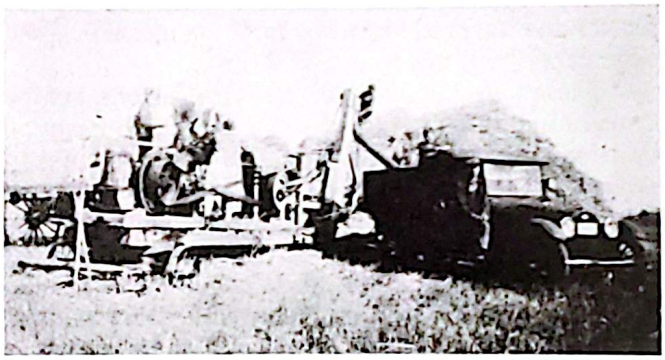
It was hard, slow work, but the soil under these large trees was very fertile, so the hard work paid off in the long run. Every year they would clear more trees; eventually, after many years of hard work, the heavy timber stand was all gone and as a result left open fields for pasture or grain.

This land had to be broken and at that time it had to be done by oxen or horse power. The first plows were single mould board walking plows. The farmer had to walk behind holding the plow in its upright position and at the same time drive his horses or oxens, which was quite an accomplishment for an experienced teamster, not to mention the problem a green horn settler would have — and there were lots of them trying their luck at farming at that time.

Fred Rusnak on his binder.

Coutu's threshing machine in 1926. Emile standing by the Fordson tractor, Harvy Coutu pitching bundles.

Flailing peas on the Peter Taschuk homestead in 1931. L—R: John Yurcavick, Ruth Taschuk, Peter Taschuk.



John Bidulock's hand fed threshing machine in 1916. There was no straw blower on this outfit. One man had to clear the straw away from the back by hand.

Later on a two-furrow gang plow was available with a seat on it for the teamster. This was quite an improvement, but many a half-asleep teamster with fast horses went flying through the air when an unexpected stone was hit by the plow.

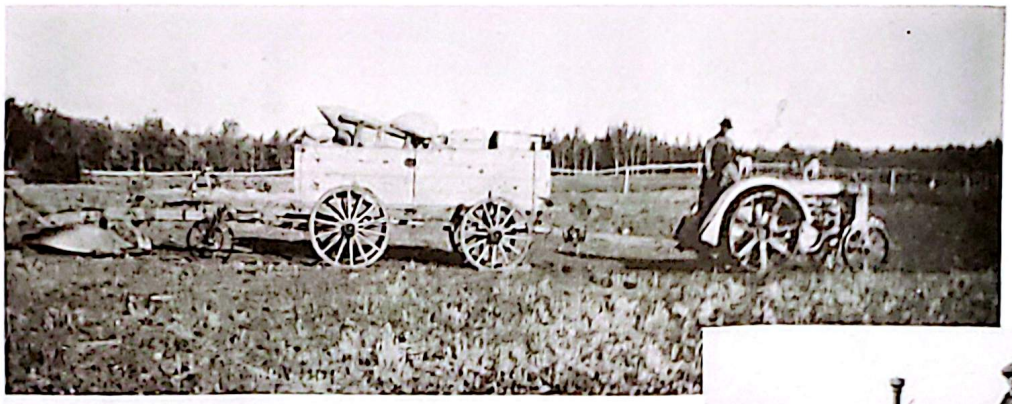
After this land was plowed, stones had to be cleared from the fields, roots had to be picked, piled and burned and the ground harrowed till it was nice and level. In early days a farmer had to walk all day behind the harrows, most of the time barefoot in the hot sun and dust. Many farm wifes spent their leisure hours, if we want to call it that, walking behind the harrows.

Finally the grain was sown by hand or with a seed drill if one was available and from then on as it is today, the weather had the final say, if a crop was going to be harvested from all this hard work.

If the farmer was lucky and the grain ripened it was cut by scythe and tied into bundles and stooked to dry. Later a machine called a binder was invented, pulled by three or four horses. This machine would cut the grain and tie it into bundles in one operation. It had a basket or a bundle carrier on its side and would transport four bundles at a time and drop them in piles, which made it easy for the stookers to pick two piles and make one stook.

After about eight days of nice weather the grain would be dry enough to thresh. In early times before the threshing machine was invented, flails were used to thresh the grain out of the heads. The first threshing machines were run by horsepower and later by small gas engines. One man placed a bundle on a platform, another man cut the twine and fed part of the bundle at a time into the machine. This grain would go through a fast revolving cylinder with steel teeth, which chopped up the straw and knocked the kernels out of the heads. As the chopped straw and grain went through the body of the seperator, a large fan would blow the straw and chaff out of the back of the machine, while the grain dropped through screens in the bottom of the seperator into a grain pan. From there it came up an elevator, bagged and hauled to the grain bin to be fed to livestock or hauled to market. One man had to clear the straw and chaff away from the back of the separator. Alex Kabage was telling me that he was working on one of these outfits and his job was to feed the bundles in the feeder and his dream was to get a promotion to clear the straw away from the back, which paid 25¢ a day more than the feeding job he had. Before the end of the run his dreams came true but he soon found out that along with the extra pay he got all the free dust and chaff, he never did look for that promotion again.

Not long after the newer and bigger threshing outfits came on the scene, such as the one owned by Marc



On the Move. Hector and Emile Coutu going out breaking in 1926.

Joe Brosseau Jr. going to work on his father's farm with a McCormick tractor, in the thirties

Girard. This machine was run by a steam engine and four men could put whole bundles in the separator at one time. The twines were cut by rotary knives and the straw was blown out of the back by a large fan through a straw blower one hundred feet away from the machine, if the wind came from the right direction.

These machines were wonderful inventions, but the bundles had to be fed evenly in the feeder to keep the cylinder speed at 840 revolution per minute. If the men slowed down and the cylinder speed increased, the grain would go flying out of the straw blower and into the straw stack. This wasn't completely lost, because farmers used this straw to feed their cattle through the winter and the result would be that his cattle herd would go through the winter in good shape, but with less grain in the bin for this particular farmer.

In early years the farmers stacked their grain bundles, and as soon as a threshing machine was available, a crew was gathered and the grain threshed. There weren't very many threshing outifts available at that time to get around to everybody's place before the snow fell. So if it was stacked, threshing could be done anytime even after the snow fell; sometimes the run wasn't completed 'till Christmas.

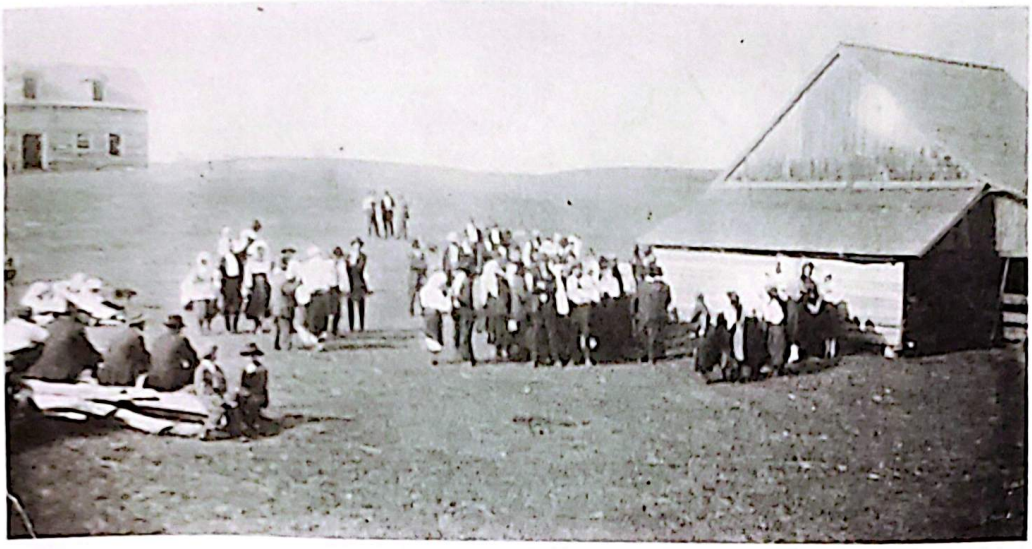
In the early 1920's many farmers bought gas tractors to break land and with the increase in grain production more threshing machines were put in use. Grain bundles were not stacked anymore and threshing was done directly from stooks. An average crew consisted of about twelve men and it was hard work. The teamsters got out of bed at five A.M. to feed, groom and harness their horses, had breakfast at six and threshing started at seven A.M. Dinner was served at twelve noon. They had one hour for dinner and were back to work at one. Some housewives had lunch for the men at ten A.M. but most of them had lunch served in the field at four P.M. The threshing day usually ended at seven P.M. after supper they fed, and bedded their horses and were ready for bed in the bunk house, which followed the outfit from farm to farm for the convenience of the threshing crew. Some threshing crews didn't have a bunkhouse so they had to put up their beds wherever they could find a suitable place. I remember one time we found a nice place under a straw stack. We didn't know that we were moving in the bedroom of a sow and her little ones, which were covered with straw. During the night the little piggies got hungry and woke up their mother for lunch. When she saw the unwanted company in her bedroom, she took off sending us scrambling out of her way in our underwear. She was glad to get out of our way also but just imagine the time we had to re-make our messed up bed in the dark.

For that sixteen hours work a man was lucky if he got $2.00 a day. Even at that everybody looked forward to threshing time. The one that had to work the hardest was the lady of the house who had to feed these hungry men, plus their family and get them ready for school. The children didn't really want to go to school at threshing time but the mother was glad to get them out of the way. Instead of a sixteen hour day, like the threshing crew these ladies worked from four in the morning till eleven at night, preparing banquet like meals for these hungry men. They were sure glad when harvest was over with.

In 1948 when I got my first combine mom and dad were living in St. Paul at that time. Dad asked mother to come to the farm to see me thresh. When they came to the combine I was augering grain into the truck. When I went to talk to mother, she was so fascinated by the modern way of threshing that she hardly could speak to me, finally she said "is that all there is to threshing today". I am sure she was thinking of the long hours she used to have to put in to get the threshing done years gone by. Later when I went to visit them in St. Paul she still hadn't forgotten her experience of that day and reminded me of the hard work they had to do to get the threshing crew fed years back.

As we stated before, the methods of farming have changed now, with air conditioned tractor cabs, radios and sometimes T.V., a far cry from the pioneer lady who had to walk barefooted behind the harrows on a hot dusty day.

The OLDTIMERS

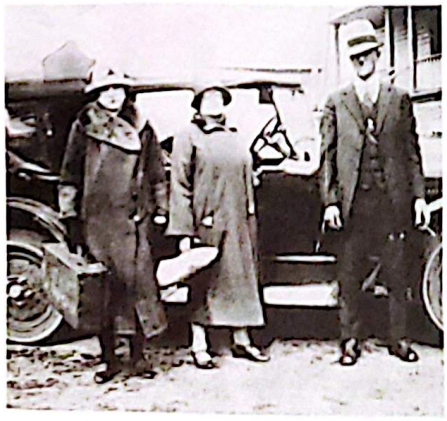


Dancing on the lawn in 1920.

Phillipe and Marie Blain. Phillipe was a freighter from Cold Lake to Vegreville in the early 1900's, with many memories of stopovers in Brosseau and Duvernay.

Left to right: Arthur Gamache, Gaston Bachelet, Alphonse Ouellette. Sitting is August Ouellette. (1939)

Alice and her mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Lapierre.



Mr. and Mrs. Joe Desrosier and one of their sons.

Dick Venne (1978). His last visit to the Oldtimers Days, at the Brosseau Community Centre. It was a most enjoyable day for him.

Above: Stanley Aucoin in 1950
Below: Adele and her mother, Mrs. Anna Venne.

Mr. Basil Theroux on his ninetieth birthday, and Mrs. Theroux on her ninety-second.

Tobin Brunelle, village blacksmith in both Brosseau and Duvernay from 1906 to 1937 - at left. Next are: Joe, Hermine and Lucia Brosseau, Madeline Johnston, Maurice Brosseau. Seated: Edward, Florence, Ella May Coutu and Regina Brosseau in front of Joe Brosseau's house in Brosseau.

Mr. Sam English and friend Billy Hasp.

Mr.and Mrs. Dan Topowich at their 50th Anniversary in 1960. Mr. and Mrs. Adam Werenka stood up for them.

COUNTY OF TWO HILLS No.21

by S.P. Mulka

Canada needed strong, hard-working men to open the vast unbroken, uninhabited lands of the West. In 1896 Clifford Sifton, a young Manitoba lawyer, offered a solution — the mass immigration of sturdy central Europeans. Sir Wilfred Laurier, then Prime Minister, accepted Sifton's idea and between 1896 and 1914, thousands of immigrants came to Canada, some of them settling in the north-eastern part of Alberta, the present County of Two Hills No. 21.

The earliest available record of the institutions of our local government is contained in the minute book of L.I.D. No. 27-M-4 wherein it states that the L.I.D. was first organized in August of 1904, comprising of townships 53 and 54 in ranges 15 and 16, west of the 4th meridian. The first meeting of the council was held on January 20, 1905, with Joe Czerniawsky as chairman and councillors Yan Turczyn, Miron Voroszczuk, and Peter Svarich. Peter Svarich was also the secretary-treasurer.

On April 8, 1905 the first meeting of L.I.D. No. 27-J-4 for townships 53 and 54 in ranges 13 and 14 was held in the Fairwood school house with E.H. Wynn-McKenzie secretary-treasurer, Dan McColman chairman, and councillors J.W.J. Laird, J.E. Mahaffey and Wieler.

Local Improvement District No. 28-J-4 with Townships 56 and 57 range 12 as Division 1; township 55 range 13 as Division 2; townships 56 and 57 range 13, Division 3; township 55 range 14, Division 4; and townships 56 and 57 range 14, Division 5; all south of the North Saskatchewan River, was organized in 1905. The first council meeting was held at Soda Lake on May 12th. The Councillors were Alexa Lusak, Prokop Iliuk, Elias Rawluk, Jos. H. Weber, and Albert Paradis. Jos. H. Weber was elected chairman and A.M. Boutillier, secretary-treasurer. On February 10th, 1906 Jas. E. Cunningham was hired secretary-treasurer for $50.00 per annum, holding that position until 1909 when C.T. McGowan's application was accepted at $85.00 per year. It is interesting to note that in Division 1 there were only four ratepayers, hence the council requested the Department for permission that it become part of Division 3.

Local Improvement District No. 27-H-4 was established in 1909, the first council meeting being held on May 3rd at the home of R.C. Fife on SW32-54-12-W4. The councillors were Herman Blok for Division 1, comprised of township 53 range 11; Maxim Tomyn for Division 2, township 53 range 12; R.C. Fife for Division 3, township 54 range 12; and Harry Chomik for Division 4, township 54 range 11. Maxim Tomyn was elected chairman and G.L. Smith appointed secretary-treasurer at an annual salary of $80.00. In 1911 Mr. Smith retired and Maxim Tomyn became the secretary-treasurer holding the position until December of 1940.

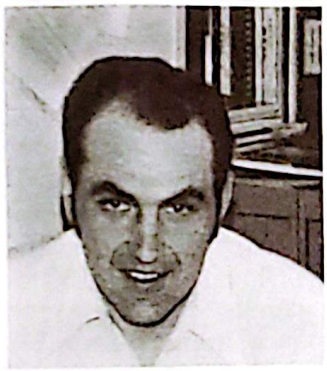
The evolution of local government of the present County of Two Hills No. 21 may be divided into five phases.The first phase is that of Local Improvement Districts described above. During the period of 1904 to 1917, school districts were set up with one-room and two-room schools dotting the area. Many settlers came from the Ukraine, Romania, and other parts of Europe and such names as Myrnam (peace to us), Sober (assembly), Slawa (glory), Boian Marea, Pobeda, Pruth, Luzan, Borowich, Krasnohora, (beautiful hill), Szypenitz, Beauvallon, Duvernay and Brosseau were given to schools, post offices, and districts. The immigrants were God-loving and God-fearing people. Many churches were built and on Sunday, after a hard week's work, families travelled by wagon, buggy or democrat to give thanks for the freedom and happiness they were enjoying; freedom which they did not have in the old country. Community halls were built so that they could assemble for plays, concerts, educational and entertaining programs.

Early road work in local improvement districts consisted mainly of cutting down high spots, filling low places and building small bridges so that traffic could move about. The first marketing centre was Edmonton, about 100 miles away, and a little later, Vegreville. Road building and repairing equipment consisted of road plows, two-horse slips, and four horse fresnos. The road crew usually consisted of a foreman, a plow team, two or three fresnos, and men to help dump the fresnos. The daily wage was $3.00 per team of 4 horses and $2.50 for the foreman. In most cases the earnings were applied on taxes which were levied at the rate of from 2 cents to 3¾ cents per acre.

Phase two covers the period from 1917 to 1944, local improvement districts being formed into nine-township Municipal Districts. L.I.D. No.27-M-4 and L.I.D. No. 27-J-4 became the Municipal District of Norma No. 515, with its offices in Vegreville, secretary-treasurer N. McIntyre; Reeve, O.F. Johnson and first councillors John Dobko, Jas. Wilson, W. Malarski, T. Hodgins and D. Shyshlak. In 1918 L.I.D. No. 28-J-4 became the Municipal District of Eagle No. 545 with A.M. Boutillier secretary-treasurer; Stefan Eliuk, Reeve, and councillors Geo. Cucuirian, John Duger, Alex Gordey, Geo. Strynadka, and John Holowajczuk. In the same year L.I.D. No. 27-H-4 became the Municipal District of Sobor No. 514. Its secretary-treasurer was Maxim Tomyn; Reeve, Wasyl Humen, and councillors Wm. Koshuta, John Lyzanchuk, Wm. Buk, and George Chomik.

It is regrettable that there are no records for Local Improvement Districts for townships 53, 54 and 55 in ranges 7, 8 and 9, being the Myrnam and Derwent areas. The minute book available starts with the second meeting of the council for the Municipal District of Ukraina No. 513, held on March 26th, 1921. The councillors attending the meeting were Peter Bielich, Wm. Koluk, Joe Caruk, Dan Yacey, Peter Makohonyk, and A. Pankow. The secretary-treasurer was N. Bednarsky. On October 15th, 1921, K. Maughan was appointed secretary-treasurer until his resignation in October, 1924. John Gereluk was then hired and continued in office until 1938.

County of Two-Hills School Committee Members
Sitting L.-R.: John R. Bober, Bill T. Kokotailo (Chairman), Mary Karbashewski, John Dudar (Reeve), Steve Bidulock. Standing L.-R.: Frank Belich, Steve Shybunka, Bob Bachelet (Deputy Chairman), Lloyd Babiuk, Fred Hasiuk, Dennis Ursuliak (A.S.B. Chairman), Walter Verenka (Deputy Reeve).

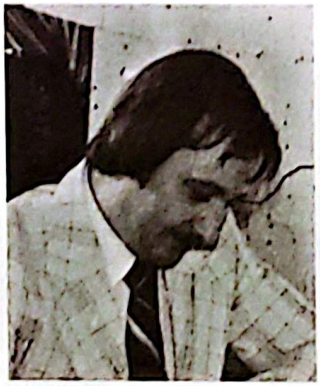


Agricultural Fieldman
John Bidulock

Assessor
Gary Popowich

Utility Officer
Tony Volk

Ass't Agricultural Fieldman
Bill Ullery



Two Hill County Gas
Eugene Dmytriw

Superintendent of Schools
Dave Yakimowich

May of 1976, 3 councillors from County of Two-Hills No. 21, went to Tulsa, Oklahoma, U.S.A. Purpose of the trip was to tour the Dupont Plastic pipe factory and negotiate a price on pipe for the county-owned gas system. This trip realized a savings of $85,000.00 for the county. L.-R.: Brian McCarthy (Canadian Rep.), Bob Bachelet (Councillor), Robert Hall (Tulsa Rep.), Dennis Ursuliak (Councillor), Eddie Roosa (Tulsa Rep.), Bill T. Kokotailo (Councillor).

During the years 1917 to 1944 much progress was made. The Canadian Pacific Railway was constructed in 1928, running from west to east across the Municipal Districts of Eagle, Sobor, and Ukraina. Hamlets of Whitford, Kaleland, Musidora, Morecambe, Beauvallon, and Slawa, and villages of Willingdon, Hairy Hill, Two Hills, Myrnam, and Derwent sprang up. Myrnam and Vegreville Municipal Hospital Districts were organized. Willingdon private hospital was built. Municipal District of Norma purchased International TD 18 tractor and scraper and in 1942, the Municipal District of Ukraina purchased an Adams 412 grader. Roads were greatly improved. Agriculture being the basic occupation of the residents of the district, worthy contributions were made by District Agriculturists, Wm. Pidruchney, Alex Charnestski, Fred Magera, and District Home Economist Hanka Ramanchvch.

Secretary Treasurer
Leonard Babyn

The third stage evolved in 1944, the four Municipal Districts amalgamated to form the large unit, the Municipal District of Eagle No. 81. In the February General Election for councillors there were twenty-seven candidates. Elected were Mike Karpchuk for Division 1; Mike Chmilar, Division 2; Wm. F. Elkow, Division 3; Wm. Chrapko, Division 4; Tom J. Horon, Division 5; Dan Lutzak, Division 6, and, Wm. A. Yusep, Division 7. At its first meeting held at Vegreville on March 8, 1944 S.P. Mulka was appointed secretary-treasurer, John Tomyn, Assistant, Mary Ropchan, Stenographer, and Steve Petasky as clerk. The office was located in Two Hills in a building donated by the Two Hills Board of Trade. Honorable mention should be made of E.H. Wynn-McKenzie, secretary-treasurer from 1905 to 1944, Maxim Tomyn, secretary-treasurer from 1917 to 1940, A.M. Boutillier from 1914 to 1942 and John Gereluk from 1924 to 1938. They served faithfully and made valuable contributions.

In 1944 the first road from Two Hills to Highway No. 16 at Lavoy was gravelled. During the period the Two Hills Municipal Hospital District was established. The Agricultural Service Board was organized in 1945. This brought a closer liason between the Department of Agriculture, the council and the farmers. The first very efficient field supervisor was P.M. Shavchook, and with Fred Magera as District Agriculturist, they devised and carried out agricultural programs designated for the betterment of farming in the Municipality. Between the years 1944 and 1955, seed cleaning plants were built at Vegreville, Willingdon and Myrnam. Agricultural programs of Brucellosis control, tree planting, use of weed chemicals, and cattle spraying were developed.

In 1955 the fourth stage of local government, the co-terminous boundary unit of the Municipal District of Eagle No. 81, was set up. For many years the small school districts were a separate entity providing educational needs in the communities by authority unto themselves and the Provincial Government. In 1937 the small districts disappeared and the enlarged school unit, the Two Hills School Division No. 21 was formed. School superintendents F. Hannochko and N. Myskiw and secretary-treasurers W. Halina, E. Boida, S. Petasky, and P.M. Shavchook contributed a great deal to the progress in education in the area.

In establishing the co-terminous boundaries, the Municipal District of Eagle No. 81, lost nine townships to the County of Minburn, of the former Norma Municipality. Areas gained were four miles of townships 53, 54 and part 55 in range 6 south of the North Saskatchewan River and township 56 range 12 part of township 56 range 11 north of the Saskatchewan River. The number of electoral divisions was reduced from seven to five. In 1959 the Two Hills School Division and the Municipal District agreed to build a joint office. In 1960 the office building, one of the finest in the Province at that time, was erected at Two Hills. Co-operation between the two bodies was excellent leading to the fifth and final stage of local government, that of the County system of administration.

On January 1, 1963 the County of Two Hills No. 21 was established. The administrative body of the county comprised of Reeve J. Dudar, councillors, P. Mudryk, A. Boida, G. Harasym, M. Mehalcheon, J.A. Tkachuk and L. Hutskal; secretary-treasurer S.P. Mulka; assistant secretary-treasurer P.M. Shavchook; superintendent N.

COUNTY OF TWO HILLS NO. 21
ADMINISTRATION

SECRETARY TREASURERS:

S.P. MULKA			TO: June 1972
DAVE HASSEN	FROM:	July, 1972	TO: September 1973
S.P. MULKA		September, 1973	December 31, 1973
PETER MARCICHIW		January 1, 1974	June 1977
G.N. POPOWICH		July 1, 1977	Formerly with County of St. Paul.

ASS'T. SEC. TREAS.

P.M. SHAVCHOOK			TO: February 1, 1972
MARSHALL MUDRYK	FROM:	February 1, 1972	TO: August 1973
EDWIN HEBERLING		August 1978	February 29, 1980

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS:

NICHOLAS MYSKIW			TO: June 1971
W.A. CHERNIWCHAN	FROM:	July 1971	TO: August 1978
R.H. CUNNINGHAM		September 1978	
D.L.YAKIMOWICH		December 1978	

Assistant Secretary
Edwin H. Heberling

Alice Miskiw

Phyllis Krucik

Ruth Bateyko

Legal Advisor
Judith C. Anderson

Shirley Toma

Michaelene Esak

Margaret Gorsline

Margaret Dmitriw and Darlene Zeilinski

Myskiw; and Field Supervisor, M. Mudryk. The County Council and the town and village representatives, Geo. E. Pawliuk, Wm. Chorney, and M. Karbashewsky were the school committee with chairman. G. Harasym.

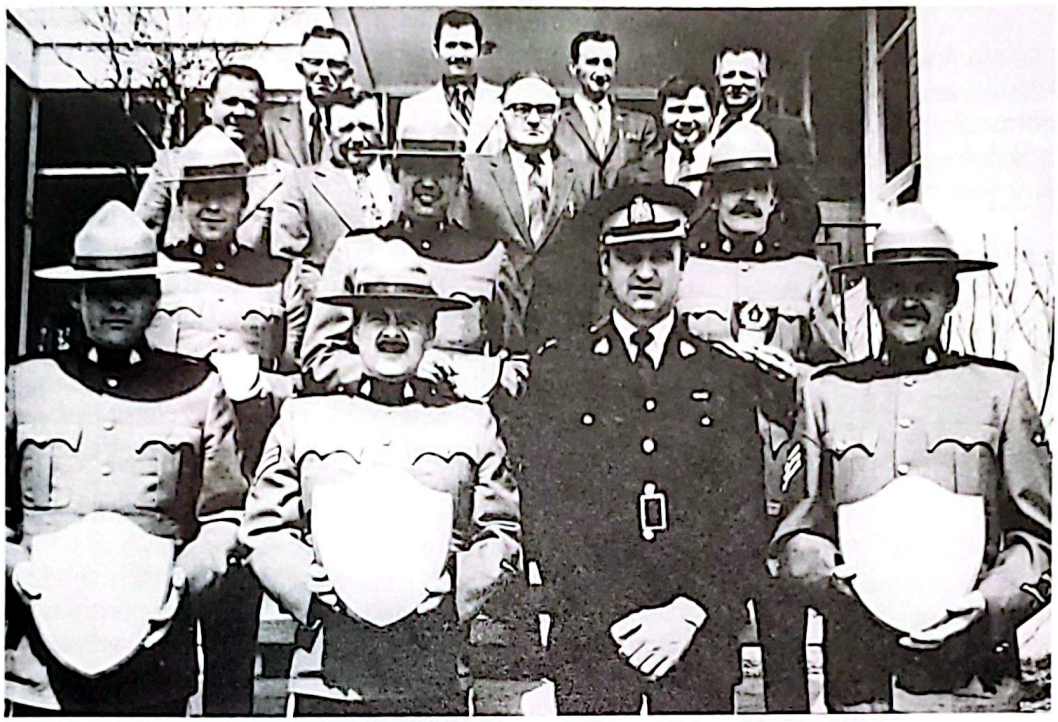
The County has an area of 671,690 acres inclusive of land and water. The total assessed valued for 1969 taxation purposes as determined by the general assessment is $12,137,700. Its boundaries are defined by County of Minburn to the south, Couty of Vermilion River to the East, County of Lamont on the west, and the North Saskatchewan River to the north, with township 56 ranges 12 and part of township 56 range 11 north of the River. Three bridges span the North Saskatchewan River, the Elk Point bridge, the Duvernay bridge and the Shandro bridge. The fourth bridge at Myrnam is presently under construction. According to 1966 census, the population is 5,528, its market centres being the town of Two Hills, and villages of Derwent, Myrnam, Hairy Hill and Willingdon. At Duvernay, seven miles north of Two Hills, the Western Chemicals Ltd. (now Chemcell Limited) have a chlorine and caustic soda plant.

The County is served with health unit facilities having the Minburn-Vermilion and Vegreville Health Units. The Vegreville health unit has a sub office at Two Hills. Hospital services are provided by the Myrnam, Two Hills and Willingdon Hospitals.

Another service provided for the ratepayers is recreational facilities at Sunset Lake, Lac Sante, and Sandy Lake. Picnic ground are available at Luzan and Musidora.

The County has a full line of modern road building equipment. Its 1044 miles of gravelled roads and 552 miles of improved dirt roads are maintained regularly and kept open year round to traffic and to 38 contracted school buses, conveying 1343 pupils to five centres. The Department of Highways maintains 28 miles of paved Highway No. 36; 12 miles of bituminous and 58 miles of gravelled Highway No. 45; 5 miles of paved and 8 miles of gravelled Highway No. 41.

From 1946 to 1969, John A. Tkachuk served as reeve, councillor, and chairman of the School Committee, the Agricultural Service Board and the Vegreville Health Unit. He devoted his services unselfishly and for his contributions he was awarded the Centennial Medal. To those who have not been recorded but who contributed to the welfare and successful operation of local government, we express our sincere thanks.



R.C.M.P. Centennial Year, 1974. The County hosted all the R.C.M.P. who patrol in the County of Two-Hills No. 21, giving each member a plaque for work well done. L.-R., front row: Cpl. Bert Tricker, Two-Hills; Cpl. Bob For, Andrew; Inspector G. Kelly, K. Division, Edmonton; Sgt. Sutherland, Vermilion. Second row: Cst. Roger Baker, Cst. Gordon Chammon, Cst. John Morrison, Two-Hills. Back row, L.-R.: Bill T. Kokotailo, Fred Hasiuk, Dennis Ursuliak, Walter Verenka, John Dudar (Reeve), Bob Bachelet, Peter Marcichiw (secretary treasurer), John R. Bober.

SCHEDULE 'A' — *Continued.*

Distribution State of the Force, by Divisions, during the Summer of 1909 — *Continued.*

Division.	*Place.*	*Commissioner.*	*Asst. Commissioner.*	*Superintendents.*	*Inspectors.*	*Surgeons and Asst. Surgeons.*	*Veterinary Surgeons*	*Staff-Sergeants.*	*Sergeants.*	*Corporals.*	*Constables.*	*Special Constables.*	*Total.*	*Horses.*	*Dogs.*
G	Fort Saskatchewan	—	—	1	1	—	—	3	1	—	17	2	25	17	
	Andrew	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	
	Brosseau	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2	
	Camrose	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	
	Daysland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	
	Edmonton	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	3	2	7	5	
	Entwistle	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	
	Hardisty	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	
	Lacombe	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2	
	Lac St. Anne	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	
	Morinville	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	
	Provost	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	
	St. Albert	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	
	Stony Plain	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	
	Stettler	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2	2	
	Tofield	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	
	Vegreville	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	
	Vermilion	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	
	Viking	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	
	Wetaskiwin	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	
	Wainwright	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	
	On command	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	3	—	
	Total, 'G' Division	—	—	1	2	—	—	3	5	5	35	4	55	44	

View of the town of Brosseau from the south of the river taken in 1910. From left to right: Dr. Hardy's office and residence, Mr. Ovila Vincent's residence, Mr. Gadbois' watch repair shop, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Girard's residence and livery barn, the Richelieu Hotel, Edmond Brosseau's general store and his residence. On top of the hill, the Catholic Church.

The first manager was Tom Lavoie until he moved to St. Paul and opened his own business. Other managers were Johnny Foisy, Leonard Girard, Frank Plouffe and bought by George Emes in 1920.

It did a booming business until the railroad came to St. Paul. After that time Vegreville was no more a stopping place to the north via Brosseau and Duvernay, which cut this little town out of the path of the northern traffic altogether. Business went down to practically nil. It was finally closed down a few years after and eventually torn down for salvage by George Emes in 1934.

The Blacksmith Shop

The blacksmith shop on Brosseau Street was built in 1907 by Horace Gauthier and operated by him until 1918. Then came Mr. Wood. In 1922 Delphis Bienvenue took it over until 1936 when he closed it down and moved to Vegreville. Tobin Brunelle then took over and moved the shop to the N.W. corner of SW 35-55-12-W4, neighbor to C.F. Callahan's store. When Tobin left, Lud Blaskin bought the equipment and was the district blacksmith until 1938, when Phil Sidor bought the business, and retired in 1976. He still occupies the shop and, when his health permits, does a little work as a hobby.

The Livery Barn

(where Steve N. Plaska and Alex Kabage worked)

The livery barn was originally built by Albert Duquette in 1907. Leonard Girard managed it for awhile and Joe Carey rented it for one year. It was at this time that Steve and Alex worked for him. It was finally sold to George Emes. There was a box-stall and space for twenty teams.

Steve and Alex were employed at different intervals to take care of the horses used by the stage, the mail driver and for freight hauls. They had to keep one team well groomed and ready for use.

When the stage arrived from St. Paul, the passengers would alight and eat while the horses were changed for a fresh team. On the return journey from Vegreville, the same procedure was followed.

The livery barn met the same fate as the other businesses in the hamlet along the river, which was cut off the highway. Motorized vehicles took over the horse and buggy days, and no more freight teams were required.

Brosseau Country Store

Before Mr. Gareau sold his store to Mr. Bachelet he had moved Dr. Hardy's building to the south-east corner of the S.E. quarter of section 3-56-12-4. There he re-opened the Brosseau Post Office in conjunction with a grocery store and gas station. Shortly after, he sold the business to Mr. and Mrs. Armand Labby. Other owners were, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Didier, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Coutu, Mr. and Mrs. Alex Werenka, Mr. and Mrs. Leo Marceau and Mr. and Mrs. Alphonse Duperron, who still handled the post office duties, groceries and Gulf service. In 1977, it was bought by Bernie Gashler and by Ron and Lenore Roffey in 1978.

Coal Mining In Brosseau

by Wasyl Hryhirchuk

Nikolai Hryhirchuk owned NE¼ 33-55-11 W4, across the south boundary of which flowed the North Saskatchewan River. In the late twenties the local farmers travelling along the winter roads to Brosseau or Duvernay, or on their way to cut firewood, discerned a seam of coal jutting out of the bank. Curiosity becoming great they investigated, digging with picks and shovels.

A few years before a grass fire had raged along these banks. The explorers found that this seam had been burnt for about 200 yards from the top of the bank. Further in, it seemed useable so prospective miners had the coal analyzed. It was declared too soft for commercial purposes so it was left undeveloped. However some of it was used in stoves but it left too many ashes and cinders. The farmers did dig some up to feed their pigs.

The Brosseau Parish Hall

In a business transaction in 1933, Joe Brosseau acquired the old Brosseau general store from Alphonse Brosseau. Instead of leaving the building idle to deteriorate, Joe Brosseau gave it to the parish of St. Laurent. After a few alterations were made it was used as a community hall, where many good parties were held. It was eventually torn down in 1955 by Mr. Motowylo.

Brosseau General Store

From 1903 Edmond Brosseau Sr. operated a general store on his farm site a mile east from the bridge. After the arrival of the C.N.R. at Vegreville he also operated the Post Office from there. Because it was out of the way of the main road, he had the town of Brosseau surveyed and moved his store across the road from the new town site in 1906. He also built a new frame house. He gave his son Alphonse half interest in the business and appointed him manager. When Alphonse got married in 1915, he gave him the store and living quarters as a wedding present. He had a good business and it was a blessing to the settlers north of the river. He also traded and bought furs from the Indians and trappers. He handled a full line of groceries, hardware, and clothing.

When the C.N.R. came to St. Paul in 1920 it slowed his business considerably. Instead of the mail coming to Brosseau daily from Vegreville, it was delivered from St. Paul three times a week.

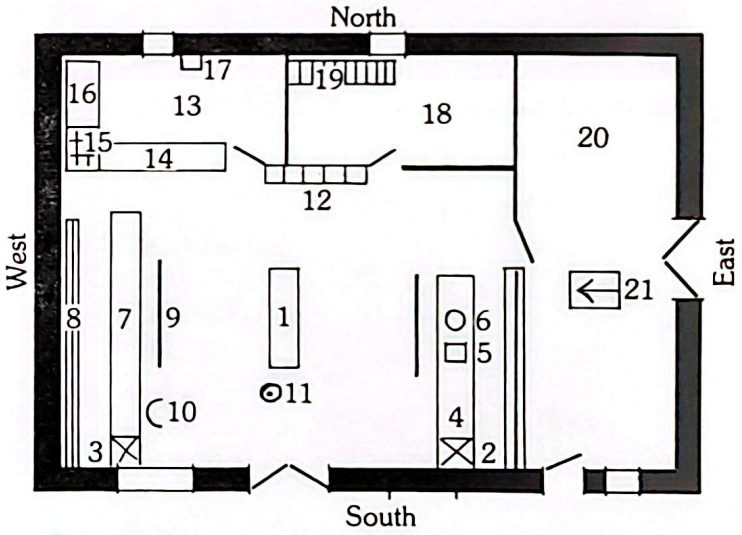
In 1926 he left his store to Charles F. Callahan and went into partnership with his brother Edmond in St.Paul.

When the C.P.R. came to Two Hills in 1927, it dealt a severe blow to the business at Brosseau and still worse when the bridge was built, because the new road went straight up the hill instead of coming down River Avenue and up Brosseau Street past Brosseau store, which it had done such a thriving business during the past twenty years of operation. It was closed in 1933.

Mr. Leonard Gadbois' shop was moved to the N.E. corner of SW¼-35-55-12 W4 where C.F. Callahan opened a small grocery store and ran the post-office. Later that year Mr. Gareau bought it.

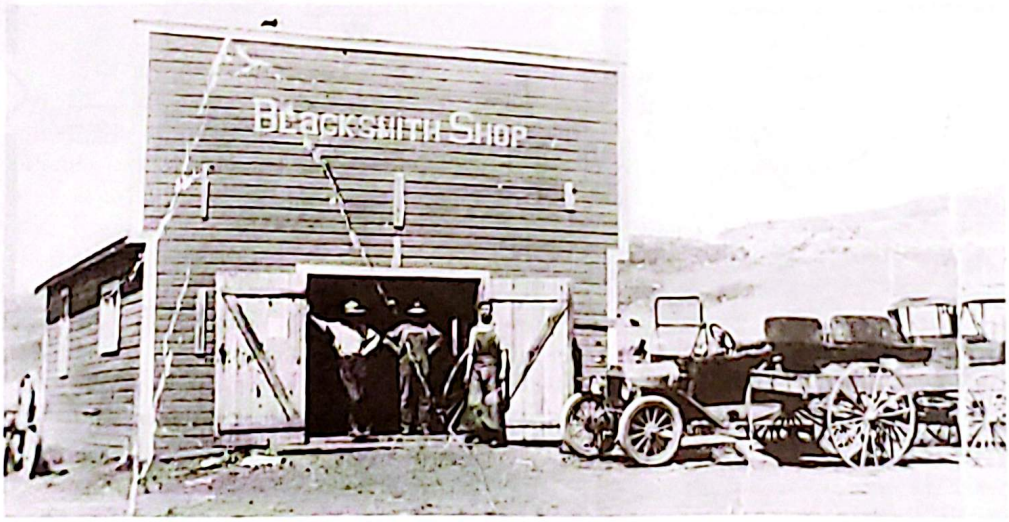
In the spring of 1938, he sold the business to Gaston Bachelet, who operated it until his retirement in 1970. Mr. Bachelet also sold gas for Gulf. His son, Robert Bachelet, re-opened the business on Feb. 1, 1976 and got the agency to sell Texaco Products. In the fall of 1979 Robert sold it to Mr. Ron Watson who came from Thunder Bay, Ont.

Floor Plan for the Ed Brosseau General Store



1 — Heater
2 — Display cabinet for cookies, candies, etc.
3 — Display cabinet for threads, buttons, beads, etc.
4 — Counter for grocery department
5 — Scale
6 — Cheese board
7 — Counter for dry goods, clothing, etc.
8 — Shelves
9 — Benches
10 — Owner's chair
11 — Spitoon
12 — Boxes for nails, bolts, screws, staples, etc.
13 — Post Office
14 — Counter
15 — Mail boxes
16 — Desk
17 — Phone
18 — Living quarters
19 — Stairs to loft where the traders' pelts and furs were stored
20 — Warehouse
21 — Trapdoor into cellar

Ovila Vincent's house on Lot 9 River Street, Brosseau, with a view of the first St. Laurent Church on the hill in the background. He arrived in 1908.



Blacksmith Shop built and operated by Horace Gauthier, in 1907, three lots north of the Richelieu Hotel, on Brosseau Street. From L to R: Leonard Girard, Marc Girard and Horace Gauthier.

Mrs. Bachelet walking down River Avenue in Brosseau, Alberta (1925). Houses as you can see down the Avenue, Gadbois's Jeweller Shop, Leonard Girard's residence, Richelieu Hotel, Brosseau's General Store and Alphonse Brosseau's residence.

View of Duvernay after completion of bridge and hill cut down to accommodate traffic and building of new road, detouring the old town of Brosseau in 1930.

BUSINESSES IN SOUTH BEND — DUVERNAY

by Lucia Robinson

From 1905-1909 the hamlet of South Bend or Duvernay, as it was named in 1905, was a thriving little community. There was:

The Riverview Hotel built by Mathias Lambert.

A boarding-house built and operated by Mathias Theroux.

4 General Stores — Curvin's, Theroux's, Rioux's, Skakun's.

3 Blacksmith Shops — Belisle's, Lapierre's and Tobin Brunelle's.

3 Livery Barns — Rioux's, Theroux's, Gauthier's.

Information Bureau — F.X. Boileau.

Post Office — Mathias Theroux.

Chop Mill — Elzear Moisin.

Creamery — Manager - F.N. Therien.

Time took its toll and these businesses disappeared. The buildings were either demolished or moved to Two Hills. Through the years a few new ones did appear.

The Riverview Hotel built in 1906 by Mathias Lambert, Brunelle's Blacksmith shop and the livery barn built in 1906.

THE RIVERSIDE HOTEL

by Pat Marcichiw

The Riverside Hotel was built in 1926 by the Edmonton Brewery and has had several managers and owners:

1. Aucoin, Manager,
2. Bigland, Manager
3. Licensed in 1931, Samule Mortimer
4. Ernest Roberge
5. Boisverts
6. H. Dempsey
7. Andy Peterson
8. Strom
9. William Burke
10. Jack Yakimchuk
11. Fred Hasey
12. 1951-1980 William Marchichiw, Owner.

This little establishment on the corner of 1st Street and 1st Avenue has seen the changes of time — from a country trail to modern pavement; from horse-and-buggies to the modern cars and huge transports; from the ferry to our new bridge and five generations of local townspeople it has greeted.

New Riverside Hotel built in 1926. On the left, River View Hotel built by Mathias Lambert in 1906 and operated in later years by Mr. & Mrs. Louis Roulx. It was taken down in 1939.

What Is Earth?

What is earth, sexton? A place to dig graves.
What is earth, rich man? A place to work slaves.
What is earth, grey-beard? A place to grow old.
What is earth, miser? A place to hoard gold.
What is earth, school-boy? A place to play.
What is earth, maiden? A place to be gay.
What is earth, seamstress? A place where I weep.
What is earth, sluggard? A good place to sleep.
What is earth, soldier? A place for a battle.
What is earth, herdsman? A place to raise cattle.
What is earth, widow? A place for true sorrow.
What is earth, tradesman? I'll tell you tomorrow.
What is earth, sick man? 'Tis nothing to me.
What is earth, sailor? My home is the sea.
What is earth, statesman? A place to win fame.
What is earth, author? I'll write there my name.
What is earth, monarch? For my realm 'tis given.
What is earth, Christian? The gateway of heaven.

Recently we came across an old scrapbook, which my great grandmother Thornton had kept before the turn of the century. Leafing through the time-stiffened, age-ambered pages, we came upon a newspaper clipping conveying the anonymous bit of quaint prose given above. It had appealed to her and she had pasted it in her scrapbook. It points up the Scriptural and eternal truth that "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he." — Contributed by John Winters Fleming.

The Duvernay Creamery built in 1908 and operated by Mr. Francois Therien.

The Brosseau-Champlain-Duvernay (B.C.D.) curling rink.

THE B.C.D. CURLING CLUB

by Mrs. Bob Galloway

In the spring of 1956 a decision was reached to build a curling rink in Duvernay, since so many of the locals were ardent curlers. A club was formed and the name of Brosseau-Champlain-Duvernay (B.C.D.) Curling Club was adopted. Some of the original shareholders were: Hector Coutu, Bob Bachelet, Wilfred Smith, Peter Popowich, Al Tiejens, Alex Taschuk, Robert Galloway, Mike Marcichiw, Edward Brosseau, William and John Boychuk, Bill Hanson, Barney Weir, Ralph and Herb Steinhauer, Jack Archinuk, Gerald Ouellette, Laurent Coutu, Rene Robinson, William Marsh, Jules Bachelet, Joe Brosseau, Marcel Craig, John Cherniwchan, William Marcichiw, etc.

Edward Brosseau leased them a lot on NEW¼ 26-55-12-W4th. Al Tiejens designed the clubroom and supervised the construction. Robert Galloway made the rafters and Ed Brosseau donated the straw bales to cover them. Pete Chuby dug the well to supply the water needed to flood the two sheets of ice — one for the curlers and one for skaters.

The bales were removed and the rafters were covered with sheets of plywood. Curlers enjoyed many matches there and several good bonspiels were held.

Meanwhile, Two Hills had built a larger rink with artificial ice, so the B.C.D. rink was closed in the spring of 1970. The plywood was purchased by Bob Bachelet, Joe & Reg Lavallee and the clubroom was bought by Bob Blachelet in 1976 and moved to his farm.

Mr. & Mrs. Elzear Moisin sitting on the porch of their house in Duvernay built in 1909. This house was later moved to Two Hills, and is still in use.

THE B.C.D. LADIES' CLUB

by Mrs. Robert Galloway

The Brosseau-Champlain-Duvernay Curling Club needed money to buy the material to finish their curling rink. Wilfred Smith and Peter Popowich approached me to form a ladies club. I became President; Doris Popowich, Treasurer; Joyce Hanson, Secretary and some of our members were Mrs. Lucille Marcichiw, Mrs. Rose Sidor, Mrs. Gisele Weir and Mrs. Sara Brosseau, Mrs. Florence Mailloux, Mrs. Emily Rudyk, Mrs. Joyce Rudyk.

Joyce Hanson was my best worker, especially when it came to driving me around in her car, where I wanted to go and when. Rose Sidor was wonderful when it came to cleaning up and she always out-worked the rest of us. We did manage to raise enough money to pay for a good chunk of the new covering to replace the straw bales.

Dates, amounts of money and such I cannot remember. I could go on at length of how we made the money-raffles of quilts, bingos, etc. — the ups and downs, arguments and temper flare-ups but, after all, nothing we could not live down.

The Western Chemicals Plant were behind us in our efforts. We had the use of the cook house and all the facilities.I do believe they also gave us cash donations.

I hope that I made a good try without any previous experience.

(P.S. The Curling Club was very grateful for Henrietta's efforts and the ladies enjoyed working with her. Thank you, Henry.)

CHERNIWCHAN'S STORE

by Mary Cherniwchan

After the Brosseau-Duvernay bridge was built in 1930 Onufrey Chrapko opened a small grocery store at its south entrance. He installed a counter and a few

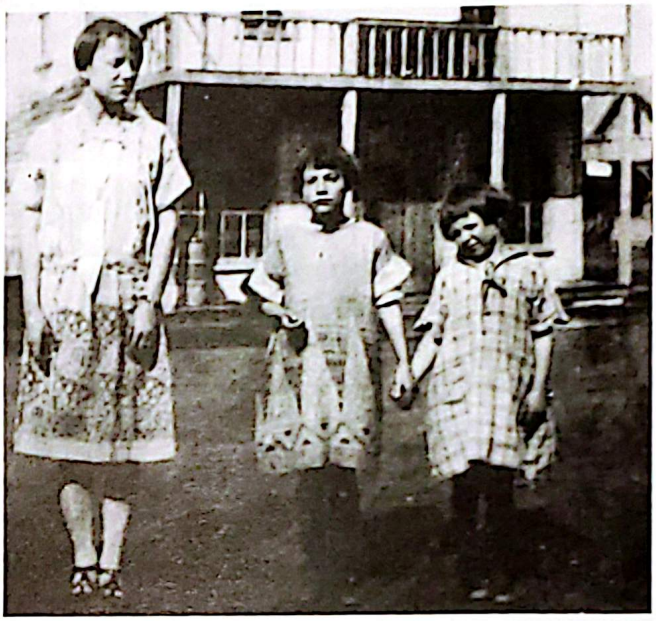
shelves at the front and had a small room at the back where he lived. John Boychuk purchased it in 1942. When the plant came into existence,he remodelled it, removing the back room and making it much larger with more shelves and stands. Then, in 1962, he sold it to his brother-in-law and wife, John and Mary Cherniwchan when he moved to Edmonton. John Cherniwchan added his living quarters to the original store in 1965. Besides groceries he sells white Rose gas and oil. This store still stands as a sentinel at the south entrance to the new bridge built in 1978.

THE DUVERNAY STORE AND CONFECTIONERY

by Lucia Robinson

In 1953 Laurent Coutu and Al Tiejens, forecast big developments in Duvernay. The Western Chemicals plant was opening and business should be picking up in this village, in such close proximity. They constructed a general store on Lot 4 Blk. 5BA, at the bottom of the hill from the plant, on the highway 36. When Mrs. Rose-de Lima Barnes retired from the post office in 1960 Laurent became the postmaster as well, moving the post-office to his store. He also operated a filling station, becoming an agent for Texaco. Then he sold the business to Joseph Lavallee, who ran it for 5 years, when he closed it definitely. He still owns the building but uses it chiefly for storage.

In 1970 the mail service was changed. Mail boxes were installed by Cherniwchan's store and Rural Route #1 came into existence. At the time of writing, Mrs. Roland Theroux of Two Hills runs the mail from Two Hills to Brosseau, stopping in Duvernay. This is a five-day a week schedule.



First store built in Duvernay in 1906 by Mathias Theroux. Their living quarters were upstairs as well as rooms for rent. It was torn down in 1926, to be replaced by the Riverside Hotel. The 3 girls are daughters of Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Ouellette: Irene, Therese and Eugenie.

CHANGE OF POSTMASTERS

South Bend, Edmonton, Alberta
Name changed (NAME OF OFFICE) to Duvernay 1-9-1908 (ELECTORAL DISTRICT AND PROVINCE)

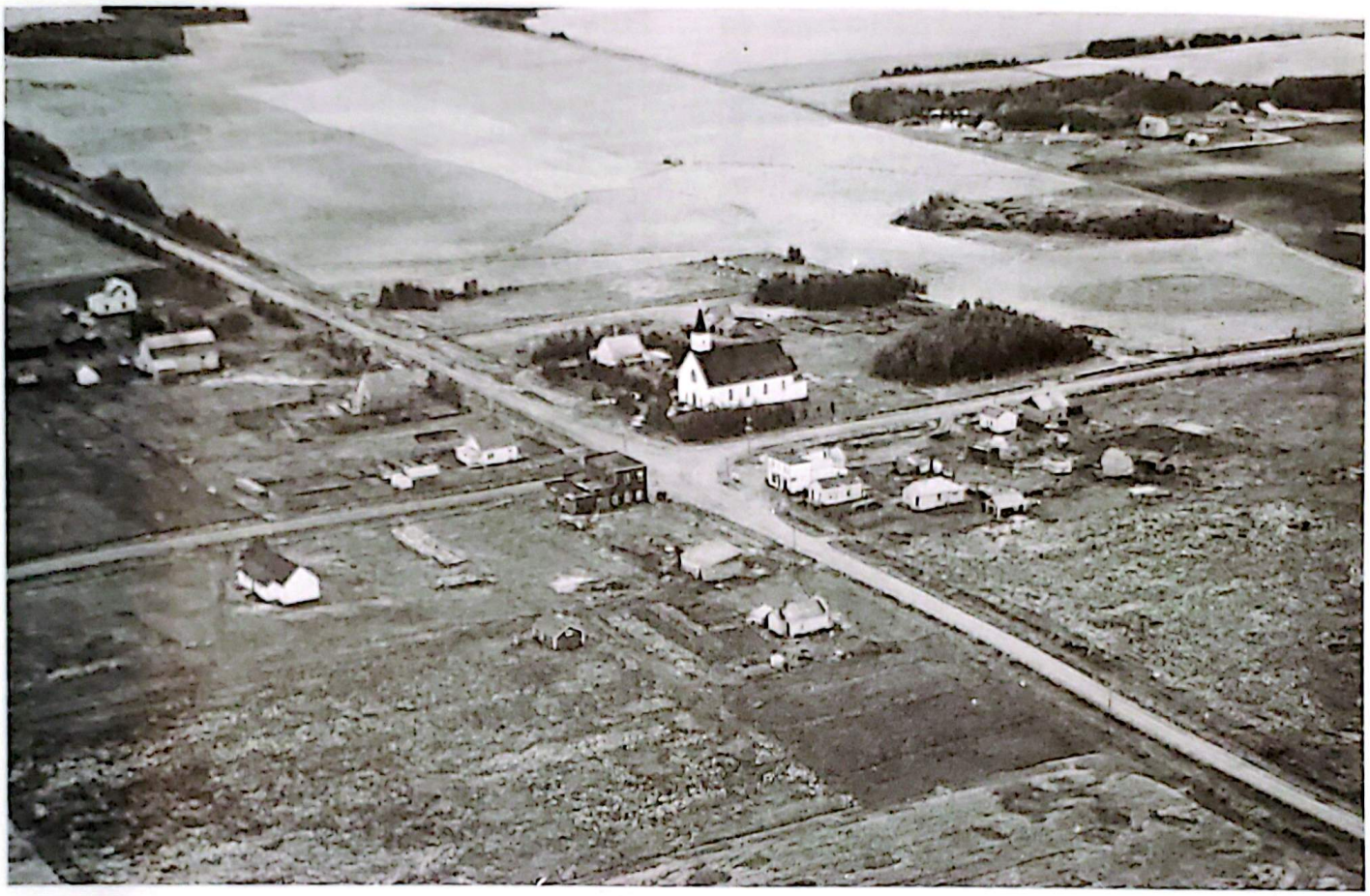
DATE OF ESTABLISHMENT- 1-9-1907 OFFICE CLOSED-
OFFICE RE-OPENED-

CHANGES IN NAME

FORMER NAME South Bend DATE OF CHANGE 1-9-1908

NAME OF POSTMASTER	MILITARY STATUS	DATE OF BIRTH	DATE OF APPOINTMENT	DATE OF VACANCY	CAUSE OF VACANCY
Matthias Lambert			1-9-1907	3-7-1908	Resignation
J. de Boivan J.P.			1-9-1908	12-12-1912	Res.
Henri Jallot			28-2-13	1-4-13	Res.
Eugene Ouellet			2-4-13	Acting	
Mathias Theroux			18-9-13	30-12-24	Resignation
A. E. Simon	O.A.S.		19-2-25	4-2-27	Resignation
Louis Proust			18-5-27	8-12-27	Resignation
Mrs. Rose De Lima Barnes		Aug 1887	11-1-28	24-6-59	Resignement advanced age
Lawrence Philip Coutu	O.A.S.	10-6-20	1-2-60	19-6-67	Resignation Susp'd
Mrs Katherine Lavallée		15-8-24	16-8-67	Acting	
Mrs. Katherine Lavallée		15-8-24	18-9-67	31-8-70	P.O. closed

P. S. 39—15,000—9-1-40



Aerial view of Lafond in 1938.

PAST AND PRESENT BUSINESS IN THE HAMLET OF LAFOND

by Hector Coutu

The first store in Lafond was built by Hormidas Mantha on the S.W. 5-57-10-4 in 1918. Borome Lafond had the first Post Office on the homestead in 1909. When Mr. Mantha opened the store the Post Office was moved there. Mr. Drapeau opened a store one block north of the Lafreniere store, in Johnny Brunelle's homestead house in 1919 and operated it till 1921. Then it was operated by Napoleon Despin for one year. In 1922 when Mr. Mantha left, Mr. Despin closed down his small store and moved in and operated the business and Post Office till 1924. Others who ran the Post Office and store were Alphonse Trudel for two years and Mr. Severin Leblanc for 5 years. He was also Secretary Treasurer of the Municipal District of Champlain #544 at the same time. When Mr. Lablanc left, Mr. P.R. Rouillard was appointed Secretary Treasurer and also ran the Post Office and business at the same time. The last store keeper in that building was Robert Coté who operated it for one year.

In 1939 Henry Hanson and later Leopold Lafrance ran a garage business out of a part of the building and the rest was used as living quarters. It was closed down in 1948 and eventually torn down to make room for a residential lot owned by Denis Gouin.

Rouillard general store and Lafond country school built in 1911. Note hitching rail on right side of hall.

Lafreniere's General Store

Mr. Edmond Robinson opened a store across the street on the corner of section 6-56-11 west of 4th. in 1933. When he died in 1940, the business was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Elphege Lafreniere and still is operated by the family.

When the store across the street closed down, the Post Office was moved to Alphonse Robinson's store and has been there ever since; fourty-four years of uninterrupted service in the same location, seventy-one years as the Lafond Post Office. Mr. and Mrs. Beland also operated a general store for a time in the 40's.

In 1937 a municipal building was built by the Champlain Municipality #544 on Lot 12. The contractor was Mr. Alphonse Simon, who resided in Chesterville at the time. Later when the office was closed down, it was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Armand Theroux and is still used as their residence.

Laurent Robinson had a blacksmith shop from 1936 to 43, when he decided to go farming instead.

In 1943 a Credit Union was opened by the members of the community and made over a million and a half dollars worth of business under the able management of Alphonse Malo.

Lafond had a public school since 1916 and has had as many as 9 classes. Today there are 4 classes and the children population is decreasing every year. Hopefully there will be an increase in the population soon, but if the current trend keeps up, the school might close down and be just a passing memory like many other country schools are today.

Teachers in Lafond in 1967
Mrs. Therese Theroux, Fernand Oullette, Mrs. Florence Mailloux, Mrs. Alice Mailloux Sr., Ramona Routhier, Lucien Landry, Mrs. Kitchenmaster, Henry Robinson Sr., Yvette (Lacombe).

FOISY STORE AND POST OFFICE

by Hector Coutu

Alladin Foisy started building a store on the N.W. corner of section 22-56-11 west of 4th. in 1918 and opened up for business in 1920. He operated this store and Post Office till 1940, at which time he sold to Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Robinson. In the last part of 1950 they sold to Mr. and Mrs. Bill Skakun, who operated it for about a year and a half, and sold the business to Mr. and Mrs. Henry Brault in 1951.

In 1954 highway 36 was built and by-passed Foisy store. Mr. Brault bought a piece of land from Harvey Malo on the S.W. corner of Section 4-57-11 west of 4th. and hired Mix the Mover to move the building there during the summer of 1955.

Mr. Brault was employed at the Two Hills Chemical Plant and Mrs. Brault looked after the store and post office. It was lots of work for both, so when his health started to fail, they decided to sell. Mr. and Mrs. Philias Plamondon bought the business and operated it for a short while. Later they sold to Mr. and Mrs. Romeo Gascon. Later they sold to Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Foisy who had the business for a while.

In 1977 the place was bought by Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Bodnar who still operates a general store and handles gas for his many customers. They still have the Post Office which has been in operation for over sixty years.

Foisy General Store in 1980.

NATURAL GAS

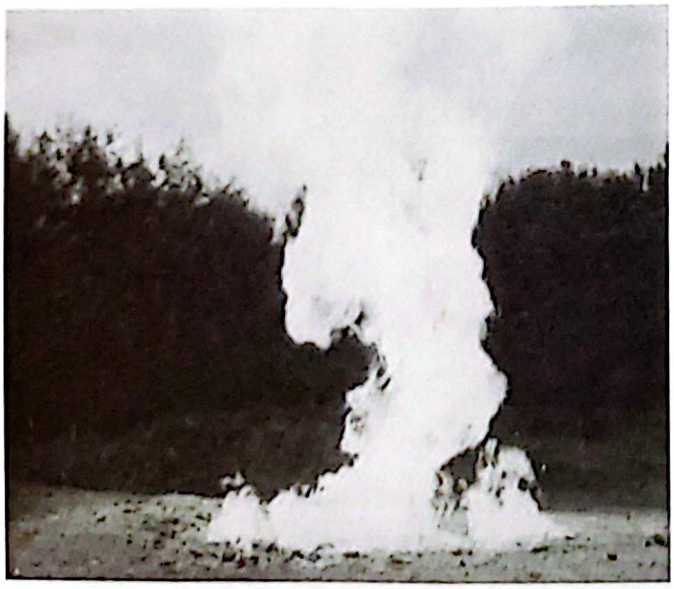
by Lucia Robinson

Gas exploration came to these districts in 1930. Wooden rigs were erected and drilling became a centre of interest. The first one was on Gray's farm NW¼ 34-55-12-W4th. Later another one was on NE¼ 36-55-12-W4th. Water was hauled in barrels from neighboring sloughs and emptied into tanks for mixing with the mud used in drilling. In 1936 a big wind of almost hurricane force attacked Brosseau and Duvernay. the rig was blown down so it was abandoned. It was capped improperly and the natural gas was escaping from apertures around the well head. It was lit and left burning for years. The site became very popular for parties and picnics. During the war, pilots from Edmonton Training Schools used it as a recognition point on their night flights although they did not know what it was. Even during blackouts it was kept burning. Finally in 1955 the provincial government, becoming energy conscious sent experts to study the well. They sent out a crew of men to cap it. They used a carload of cement in the hole and placed a heavy cap over it. The flow was completely checked!

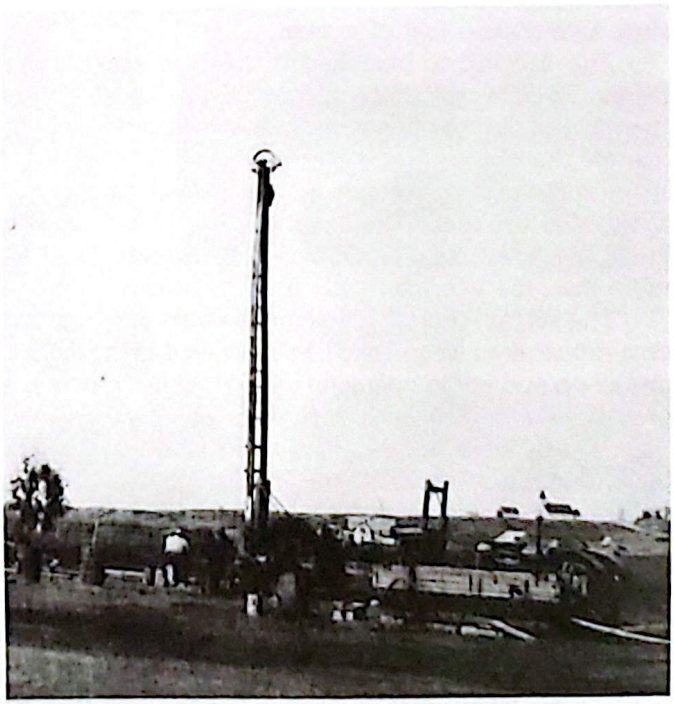
In 1938 Joe Brosseau was planning to build a new house in which he would need water. He hired Mr. John Edward Frederickson and helper Robert Poitras to drill a well, with his horse driven drill. One morning it blew. Gas was shooting out. He threw his cap into the flow and it went flying up into the air. To test it he threw a lit match into it and flames shot sky high. Joe Brosseau had mineral rights so he had the gas piped into his house in 1939 and used it until recently. The gas pipeline passes through now and his son had it installed into his house. He no longer could use the original well.

Since then many other wells have been drilled, Exploration is still in progress. Seismic crews keep appearing. At night if you are driving around, you can see rigs glistening like Christmas trees in the dark.

Wooden derrick used in drilling for gas in 1930.



Gas well burning for years in Joe Brosseau's pasture, 1936-1955.



Drilling for water on Joe Brosseau's farm but ending up with natural gas, 1938.

LOGGING OUR FADING INDUSTRY

by Hector Coutu

Lumbering was one of the first occupations of most early settlers. Even before their arrival, the Indians needed logs to build their winter shelters. Pioneers arriving at the turn of the century needed lumber to build their homes, churches, schools, building for their stock, etc. Trees were plentiful, so logs were available all over the district. The sound of the axe felling these competed with the songs of the birds and the chirping of insects. Sawmills sprang up run by the puffing sound of steam engines and the settlers busily built their farmsteads.

The first sawmill was set up by Florian Paradis on the N.E. 12-56-12-W4th in 1906. At that time Brosseau Lake was surrounded by a thick stand of spruce trees and at that time it was an ideal place for a sawmill. Farmers also brought in logs from all over the district. Extra lumber was available for $18.00 rough and $24.00 for planed at the mill site.

The trees were cut down by a two man crew with a cross cut saw. These long trees were stripped of their branches and cut up in shorter pieces depending on length of lumber required from that log. These logs were skidded on to skidway by a team of horses. From there they were loaded on a sleigh and hauled to the mill site, where they were cut up and made into different dimensions of rough lumber. A planer was available if planed lumber was wanted.

Later on, mills were operating in many other parts of the district. Joe Lapierre operated a mill from 1907 to 1917 on section 28-55-12-W4th. In 1946 Hector Coutu bought this same timber limit from Harry Motowylo, which had re-grown to full size timber by that time, after 40 years of uninterrupted growth. They logged there for nine months with a crew of 6 to 10 men and took out close to a million feet of lumber.

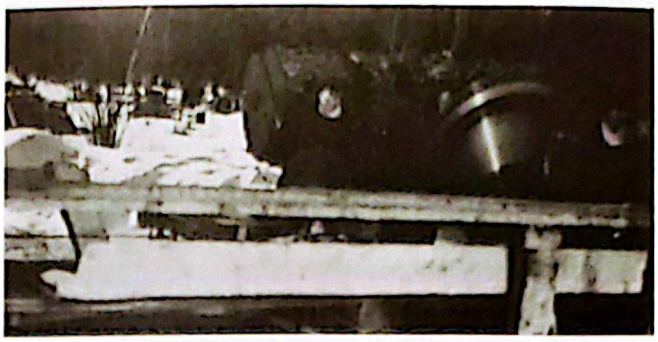
The logging technic hadn't changed much since Florian Paradis operated the first mill in 1906. The only change was that gas power was used instead of steam to operate the mill.

Today logging operations have had two major changes in this area. The first is the use of a chain saw instead of the crosscut saw, which enables one man to fall more than the two man crew used to before.

The second change is that the sawmills are mounted on a rubber tired wagon and can be moved to the log site and setup and put in operation within half hour, where it used to take days to set a mill years ago.

The Bachelet brothers Jule and Robert took out about 50 thousand feet of lumber off the N.W. 4-56-12-W4th in 1980, employing this new system of logging and also made use of their tractor for skidding the logs out of the bush.

Logging is a fading industry in this part of the country but there is still the odd farmer that have wood lots and make a few thousand feet every so often. Instead of the price being $18.00 a thousand as it was in 1906, it is now $250.00 per thousand feet for rough lumber.



A big log going through the saw at Coutu's mill in 1946.

Rene Coutu taking a slab away from the saw. Hector on the lever.

Emile Girard with a load of logs to be sawed into lumber.

Coutu's sawing crew, from left to right, Eli Laramee, Rene Coutu, Adelard Coutu, Alphonse Coutu, Hector Coutu, Art Logozar the cook and Emile Coutu, standing in the back. Sitting in front Donald our mascot.

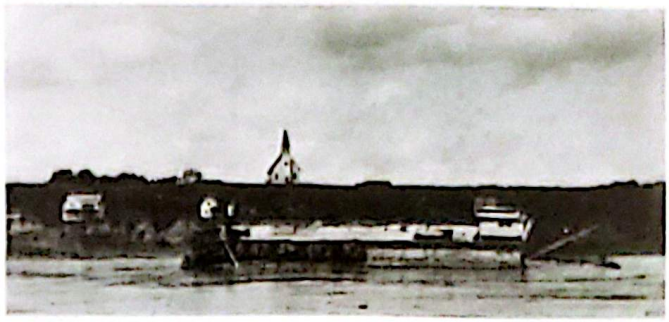
SAGA AT THE $120,000 DUVERNAY GOLD DREDGE

by Mrs. Rose de Lima Barnes

In the late spring of 1924, some friends and I were sitting on the banks of the North Saskatchewan, watching the tumultuous waters which were running wild and fast. The river had risen way above its crest; its banks in places were completely submerged. It was interesting to see all the different things being washed down the river by the fast waters. There were logs, trees, small buildings, a raft with a dog on it and all kinds of other objects too numerous to mention. Then somebody shouted "Look, a big house!" It was coming at a terrific speed following the current, tipping, leaning! It was caught in the turmoil of the river's uncontrolled might. This strange object as it came closer, bouncing savagely at times, regaining control as if under the hands of a navigator caught in the straits of hell. Suddenly it struck with an earth-shattering crash. The ferry cable pillar gave way with a disturbing sound which resounded through the valley, coupled with the terrifying noise of a flood. This strange object made a final struggle to free itself from a grip which held it unwillingly, but the ferry cable held it fast.

Now, everything was quiet, except for the roar of the river. We realized it was no big house, but a large gold dredge with a cabin at the front and a large smoke stack at the back. The ferry cable which spanned the river sheared off the cabin roof but slowed the dredge's speed enough, that when the smoke stack hit the cable it stopped its forward motion and held fast.

Joe Lapierre and a group of volunteers with ropes and cables hauled the huge dredge to the south bank



The gold dredge that had broken loose from its mooring in Edmonton during the spring high water of 1924 and came down the river on a wild rampage had sheered off 15 ferry cables before it was stopped by the Brosseau-Duvernay. A group of men led by Joe Lapierre fastened cables on the monster and tied it safely to the bank of the river.

anchoring it to the trees. It was a difficult achievement for the men to save the dredge in this emergency.

The following day a representative of the company who owned it arrived. He explained that the boat had broken loose from its morrings in Edmonton and on its wild rampage had sheared off fifteen ferry cables along the river.

The gold dredge was later repaired and received a new coat of white paint with red trimmings.

However this monster was doomed to end in Duvernay. Two years later, in April 1926, another flood rolled forward. This time the mighty North Saskatchewan River was well prepared. Rolling with mountains of ice it battered the gold dredge repeatedly, lifting it high on its crests and crushing it with ice floes until it lay fatally wrecked on the banks.

With a fierce vengeance the river had evened its score for its humiliation of 1924.

Repainted and reparied gold dredge in 1925, the year after it was rescued in Duvernay.

The completely submerged gold dredge during the spring break-up of 1926.

The following summer the dredge was all repaired and repainted, but during the spring of 1926 it was mauled against the bank by the high water and ice and wrecked beyond repair never to see service again

Courtesy of the Provincial Archives of Alberta

The picture shows the grizzly and sluice box which was used to recover gold dust out of the gravel on the sand bars of the Saskatchewan River here at Brosseau. The only difference was that the lower part of the sluice box had legs, which raised the chute off the ground to enable the gravel to clear the end.

ONE OF THE FIRST INDUSTRIES IN THIS AREA WAS GOLD MINING

by Hector Coutu

Placer are deposits of native-state gold found in sand and gravel along rivers and streams. The North Saskatchewan River was known as a source of placer-gold and panning has been done for many years.

Gold is heavy and for this reason it is simple to separate from the black sand and gravel. The force of gravity causes it to work downwards.

The gold pan is the most important single piece of equipment required, while prospecting for this precious metal. The technique is quiet simple. First fill your pan about three quarters full with material and submerge under the surface of the water. Now give the pan several quick shakes back and forth and from side to side — but not too vigorously as to throw too much material out of the pan. Change from the vigorous motion, so that the material starts rotating in a circle. This procedure will cause most of the sand to dissolve and wash out of the pan. Scoop out the large rocks and other bulky material. Place the pan under the water again and tilt slightly away from your body. Begin rotating the material from side to side, with a slight forward tossing motion. This must be done carefully, so not to loose any black sand, but enough force to slough the surface and lighter gravel out over the side of the pan. Level the pan occassionally, and shake it back and forth and from side to side. This will allow the gold and black sand to settle on the bottom, while the lighter material comes to the surface. Repeat this procedure till the material composed of black sand and hopefully gold is left in the pan. At this point, lift the pan completely out of the water, retaining about ½ an inch of water in it. Hold the pan in a even keel and swerve the mixture slowly in a circular motion. This will spread the material evenly over the bottom of the pan, allowing you to check for any colour that is settled on the bottom of the pan. If there was enough colour the next procedure was the setting up of the sluice box. In this part of the Saskatchewan River, the only way gold could be recovered from the gravel, was by the grizzly and sluice method.

Once the sluice is set up, the prospector, simply shovels the gold bearing sand or gravel on the top holding chute. Then by means of a pail at the end of a stick he pours a steady stream of water over the gravel, washing it down the grizzly. This grizzly automatically screens out the larger rocks and the finer mixture washes through and onto a rug or a Hudson Bay blanket which catches the finer values of gold. Every so often, depending on the amount of black sand which settles on the matting, this matting which lines the bottom of the sluice box trough, is thoroughly rinsed in a deep bucket. The concentrate rinsed from this matting contains the gold accumulated during the "run".

The amalgamation process is one of the oldest and simplist method of recovering the fine gold. This process requires the use of mercury, a soft liquid-metal, sometimes called quicksilver, which has a tendency to gather the gold, while ignoring the sand and gravel.

First, add about ½ teaspoon of mercury to one pound of concentrate, then place underwater and agitate. The mercury should be worked thoroughly through the concentrate for complete contact with all the gold present in the black sand. The gold will then be assimilated by the mercury, giving it a pasty consistency. The bubble of mercury will have increased in size after the gathering of the gold. all the gold that was in the black sand and other concentrate is now trapped in this ball of mercury. The next step is to place this amalgam in a buckskin or chamois skin, and squeeze out as much mercury as possible. This should be done underwater, as mercury tends to splatter when forced through this chamois. What is now left in the chamois is fine gold dust covered with mercury that couldn't be taken out by the squeezing procedure. To get

this mercury off the gold, the dust is placed in a frying pan and heated over an open fire. At the right heat the gold dust will melt burning off the extra mercury and when cooled off will leave a piece of solid gold, the fruit of your days work.

This is the procedure we used to wash gold here on the Saskatchewan River, when I spent the summer of 1933 with Ollie Hanson as partner on my first mining expedition.

The first gold miners mentioned in history was Sam Livingston and Jimmy Gibbons, who spent the summer of 1866 washing gold on the North Saskatchewan river. Many others tried the luck on the sand and gravel of the river after the time. Some came alone others brought their wives living in caves or tents along the shore. Mr. Poulin, Mr. Charles Bergeron and many others got ready cash from the sand bars and banks of the river, when they first came around the turn of the century. During the hungry 30's, hundreds of people made meager livings washing gold along the river. On Gold Bar Island, situated on the S.E. quarter of 33-55-12-W4th., Earl Henderson, Mr. Bigland and his sons, Fred Popowich, Nick Eluik and his wife and many others spent the summers in the hot sun washing gold dust out of the sand bars. At that time Gold Bar Island was about six acres in size and four feet above water level during the summer months, when the water was low. During the spring when water was at it's highest the island was completely submerged underwater. When the water receded, the whole island was left with a nice flat island of sand and that was where the gold dust was more plentyfull and easy to get at, although nobody got rich on it but it was ready cash and that was hard to find at that time.

Five miles up the river there is another island called Gold Island, situated on the N.E. 20-56-12-W4th. It covers about thirty acres and its banks are about twenty feet in height. Lots of miners prospected on this island from one end to the other hoping to find the reason it was called by that name but soon found out that it was a misnomer and till today one wonders why it got that name in the first place, because nobody got rich there either. There was a fair amount of gold in the gravel but no more than in any other place in this part of the river.

One gold miner by the name of Jake Derickson lived there from 1949 to 1967 and left just as poor as he had came, like many others that had lived there before him.

In another instance a company was formed and operated a gold dredge (see pictures in story of Saga of Gold Dredge) on the North Saskatchewan River for a few years. It was a massive structure hundred feet long by thirty feet wide and operated by two big steam engines. It pumped sand from the bottom of the river bed, hoping that a fortune was going to be found.

When this monster broke away from its mooring in Edmonton during the spring of 1924 and was rescued by a group of volunteers here in Duvernay, everybody seemed to wonder what was going to happen next. A few days after a loaded car of well dressed passengers came to look the gold dredge over and went back to Edmonton the same day.

Two weeks after, a fast talking man named Towilinger came on the scene. He said that he was going to sell shares and put the gold dredge back into operation again. He never tried to sell share in this area. He went to Alphonse Brosseau, who operated the general store here at the time and bought the gold that the local gold miners were bringing in to exchange for food and left for the United States on an expidition to sell shares on the gold mining venture he had planed. I am sure he had no problem selling shares, when he showed the rich people of California the gold that was mined on Gold Bar and Gold Island here at Brosseau. He had proof in his pocket when he showed these potential buyers the gold that was being mined in this area.

Anyway he came back in early August and repaired and painted the gold dredge and money seemed to be no problems anymore.

In early November he got Alex Kabage and George Emes to go to Vegreville and bring back a geologist named Houtun and a driller and his equipment. Alex found out after, that this geologist was on a salary of $1000.00 a month and the driller was paid fifteen dollars a day with all expenses paid. What a wage for them times, when the local wage was less than one dollar a day, if you could find work.

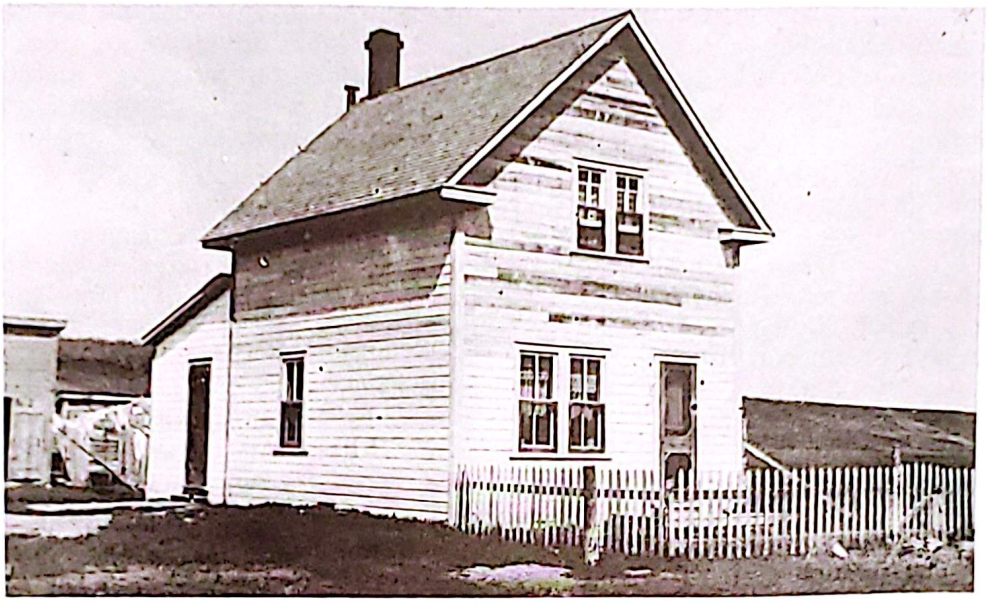
They got the drilling rig set up on the shores of Gold Island and hit rock at a depth of twenty to twenty five feet and could go no further. In the mean time they lived in Ferrier Ouellette vacated homestead buildings, on the east side of the river, a short distance from Gold Island. Alex brought their mail and did shopping for them. When Mr. Houtun had to phone, he would borrow Alex's horse to go to Brosseau.

They drilled in many spots around the island but no matter where they tried they hit bed rock and for sure never hit pay dirt. When the prospecting was over Gene Desrosier brought them back to Vegreville and that was the last that anybody ever heard of the fast talking Towilinger and the Californian Geologist named Houtun.

One thing for sure they never hit gold on the North Sashatchewan River here at Brosseau and I am also sure many innocent shareholders lost money on this venture.

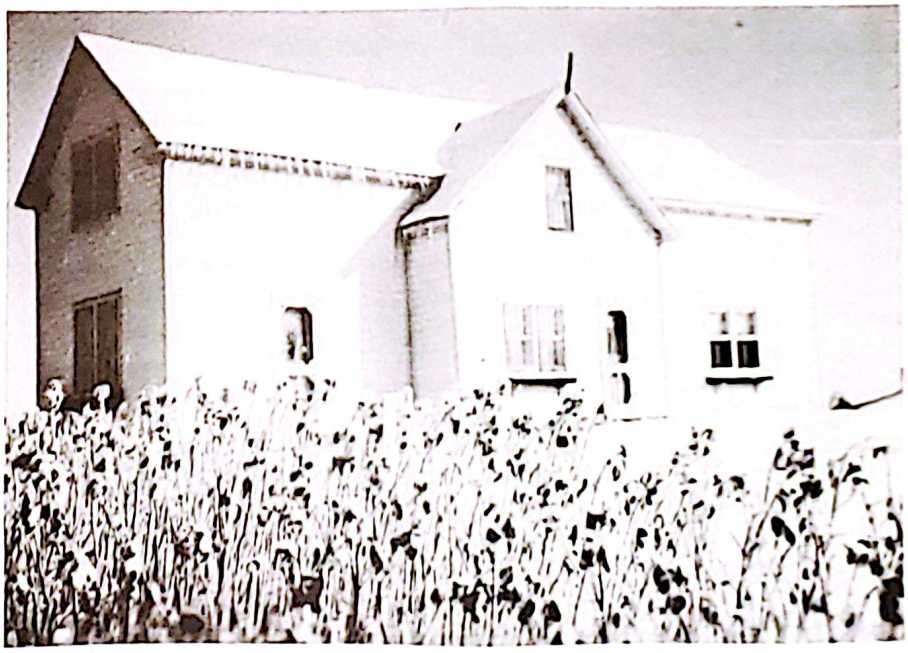
The final chapter of this whole episode ended when this big white elephant got crushed by the river ice of 1926 here in Duvernay and maybe somebody collected some insurance money out of this fruitless venture after all.

Today the river is so polluted with mud that even if a person wanted to wash gold for a pastime, he wouldn't be able to find enough clean gravel to do any panning let alone use a sluice box. I know because my brother-in-law Julien Gervais and I walked the river bank in 1979, for ten miles each way from Brosseau and never saw anything but mud. On the banks of the river where I washed gold during the summer of 1933 is covered by mud also. Gold Bar Island which was like a sand desert is also covered with dirt with bush growing on it. What a change from the nice clean sand that used to be there fifty years ago.



House built in Brosseau, when Edmond Brosseau Sr. moved his store to a new location in 1906. Edmond Brosseau was living in the house when his son, Hector, was born November 29, 1908.

OLD HOMES



Jean Baptiste Brosseau's house on the farm in Brosseau, 1910.

Jerime Lapierre's farmstead on the N.W. 20-55-12-4 (1918).

Mr. and Mrs. Alphonse St. Hilaire's house, built in 1912. Picture taken in 1921.

Bachelet's General Store. Picture taken in 1938.

Moving the A.T. Brosseau house to Martin Lavallee's farm, SE¼ 34-55-12 in 1938. The house was moved in two sections by horses.

Mr. Lavallee and boys moving their house with a 10 horse team.

HOME HEATING FOR THE EARLY SETTLERS

by Hector Coutu

The first settlers had to use the axe and bucksaw to cut firewood to heat their homes. Farmers in this area were luckier than the first settlers of the prairies, where they had to resort to gathering buffalo dongs for fuel because there was no bush for miles from their homesteads.

In this area, the first 20 years or so there was lots of firewood available, but in the late twenties the commodity got scarce and farmers had to travel as far as 10 miles to get their next winter's wood supply. They would have to leave at daybreak with enough hay and oats for one feeding for their horses and a good lunch for themselves. When the bush was reached, the horses were fed and the farmer got to work chopping down trees. The best tree for firewood was white poplar, about six inches at the stump and about 25 feet long. When he was well warmed up, he would make a fire to thaw out his frozen lunch and make tea. After the warm lunch he got busy chopping some more. It usually took about two to three hours to get his load cut. (About one hundred trees had to meet the fate of the bushman's axe before the load was loaded.) After carefully loading his load he started on his way back home, well timed to make it just before dark if he encountered no mishaps on his way. Usually he went for a load every other day to give him a chance to do his other work at home. He would keep this up till he had enough wood stockpiled for his next year's supply. It usually took from ten to twenty loads depending on the size of the house to be heated.

When all the neighbors had got their wood supply in their yards, they would make an appointment with the owner of a wood sawing outfit, to get these 25 foot poles cut in foot long pieces to fit the woodburning stoves. Sidor Fedoruk, Ernest Didier, Metro Sherstianka and many others had outfits at one time or another, which was a great help to the people of the district. It was quite a change from the old bucksaw days.

When the sawing outfit pulled into the yard at least five other neighbors, who also had wood to saw, were on hand to help and exchange time.

For these services the owner of the sawing outfit got $1.00 an hour and had to furnish his own expenses. If there was enough help and he didn't work he only got 75¢ an hour.

After these green poles were cut in short pieces it had to be split and corded, so it would be well dried and fit to be used as fire wood for next winter.

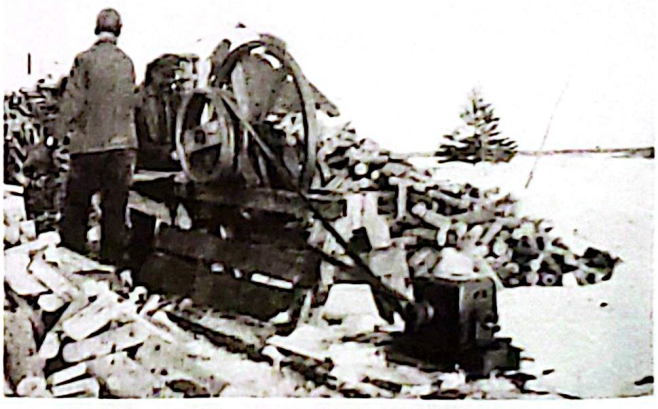
As you can see there was lots of work involved in keeping a home heated at that time but it cost them only the hiring of the sawing outfit and maybe a few axe handles and lots of elbow grease. The total costs would be less than eight dollars a year to heat an eight room house, peanuts compared to our heating bills of today.

Some farmers would supplement their income by selling fire wood to the people who lived in town. They would get about $2.00 a cord (piled 4 ft. wide, 4 ft. high by 8 ft. long) or a full load for $5.00 delivered. Before it could be sold it had to be split and dried as there was no demand for green wood.

Later on coal was available and it was quite an improvement to the living habits of these settlers. The problem of using wood as fuel, was that during the cold weather somebody had to get up during the night and add more wood to the fires to keep them from burning out. With coal the stoves would be filled and dampers adjusted, so it would gradually burn all night without having to be looked after till morning.

Mike Pundick's sawing outfit with crew. From L. to R. Arkep, Steve Zavadiuk, Metro Sherstan, Jack Jacura, Mike Bandura, sitting Mike Micalyk and Mike Pundick.

Wilfred Girard going to town with a load of firewood.



Mike Pundick splitting wood with a power wood splitter.

EDUCATION
CHAMPLAIN SCHOOL DISTRICT #1776

by Hector Coutu

As the community grew a need for some form of education became more imminent. So at a organization meeting on March 19th, 1908 a group of potential ratepayers, decided on the size of a school district to organize. They decided that the district would comprise of section 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 33, 34, 35 and 36 of township 56-12 West of 4th, also including section 19, 30, and 31 in township 56-11 West of 4th Meridian, a total of 9600 acres. The number of acres was important because the Department of Education would allow a school district to collect taxes at a certain mill rate per acre to cover operating expenses.

A board of three trustees was appointed by the election code of the Department. The three successful trustees were J. Hilsabeck, V.F. Ouellette and Louis Cuillerier. So at that meeting they decided to apply to the Department of Education to form a school district to be called Champlain. The number #1776 was added on by the Department because this was the 1776 th school district formed in the Province of Alberta at that time. Eugene Ouellette was appointed first Secretary Treasurer. They also asked to set the mill rate at 6¢ per acre, $9.60 per quarter section.

The application was approved. At a later meeting on June 29th, 1908 Mr. Henry Stahn was appointed building superintendent and agreed on a daily wage of $1.50 a day. It was also agreed to distribute the supplying of lumber between those that had applied to sell lumber for the building of this school. The price was to be $18.00 for rough lumber at the mill and $26.00 for planed lumber at the planer site. Within three months the school house was completed at a total cost of $604.00, peanuts compared to what it would cost to accommodate forty pupils today.

The new school house was a proud, white painted frame building with blue trimmings, pitched roof with well oiled black shingles. This single classroom was twenty-four by thirty-six in size. To this area was added the cloak room, about six feet in width, running the full width of the back of the building. There, boots were stored and on the brass hooks hung coats, caps, scarves and many other kinds of garments the children wore to school.

The classroom was illuminated by three large windows on each side. At the front was a porch, 12 by 8 with two windows on each side and the door in the center. This was mostly used as a space to store the four foot long wood for the stove. Inside, at the far end of the classroom, was a platform, one step above the floor. No doubt it was designed to improve the visibility of the students in the back or perhaps to make the teacher more impressive to the children. But probably its most successful function was to keep the teacher's feet, in winter, above the cold and drafty floor. On this platform stood the teacher's desk. In our school the desk did not stay there very long, because the teacher moved the desk closer to the back where the stove was situated. They too enjoyed heat and they had a choice where they preferred to place their desk.

In the winter the most important piece of furniture was the pot bellied cast iron stove in the middle of the large room, which battled bravely but vainly against the frigid winds which whistled into the building through the cracks of the ill fitted single glass windows or came through the uninsulated floor. Classes were not held in the Champlain School during the winter of the first years of its existance. When there were classes held in the winter the stove glowed in shameless nakedness in the center of the large room, later there was a newer model installed, garbed in black sheet metal. In order that no B.T.U. of heat might be lost, a stove pipe from this heating plant snaked the length of the room to the chimney at the far end of the building. This stove had more than one purpose, it was used as a garbage disposal and many teacher's straps disappeared in the flaming pot, thrown in by some disgruntled student, who had sampled its effect on the palm of his hand or seat of his pants.

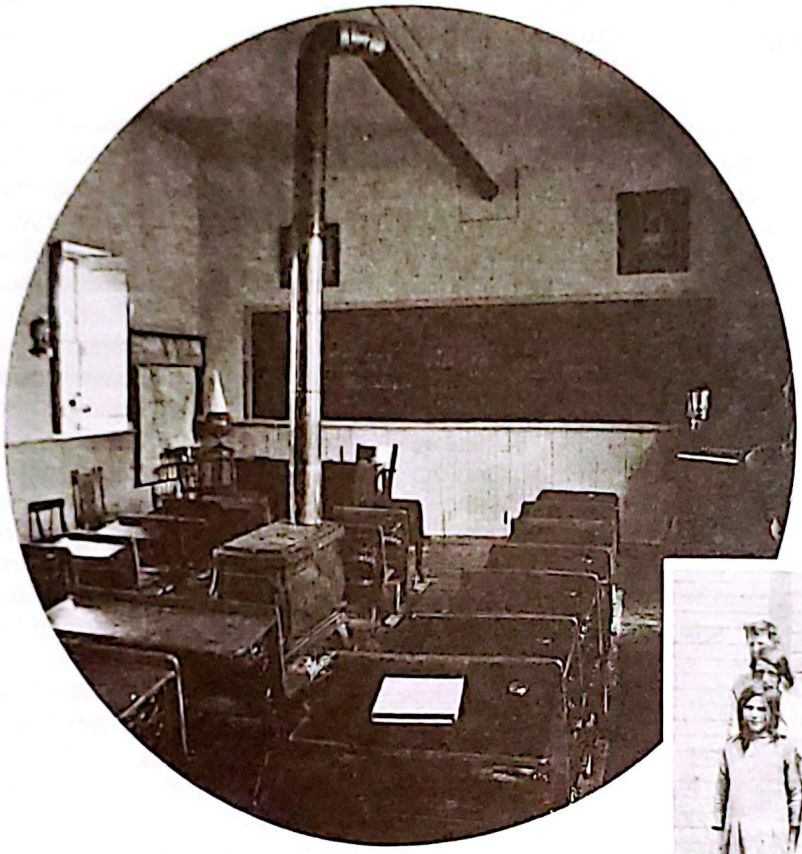
Furniture and equipment matched the building. The pupils desks were factory made articles of smooth birch, with wrought iron sides. Naturally these single and double seats were uncomfortable, almost as uncomfortable as church pews of the era, and for the same reason I presume. Neither learning nor piety was thought to be either easy or pleasant. The pupils desks were first screwed to the floor, as eternal in their position as the stars in the heaven. But later they were screwed on planks, so they could be moved for easier sweeping and scrubbing of the floors.

On the front of the classroom there were two big blackboards. Above there was the picture of our past and present Prime Minister of Canada, one of our present King or Queen and one of our Pope. On one side was the storage shelf, crammed with coloured paper, chalk, ink, steel pen nibs, a box full of mathematical models, etc.

On the other side there was a set of shelves full of text books and of standard school edition bound in hideous green or muddy brown cloth, a variety of story books that would not be too interesting for todays readers, but to us they were the best and we put in lots of time reading them.

There was a big assortment of maps all over the walls, most of them coloured. So they showed up well over the white kalsimined walls; the teacher usually had many pictures of her own liking which made it something to admire.

As they had to have water, a well was dug by hand, which proved to be a headache because till the teacherage was built not enough water was used, so the water was pretty stale. Yet despite horse dropping in the school yard, dead gopher in the well, and dirt on the floors, they were proud of their school, proud enough to call it Champlain, in memory of the French explorer who founded Quebec.



Inside view of old country schools.

Champlain school children. There is Wertapora, Coutu, Hillerud, Jacura, Ternovoy and others in the group. (1930)

Every school had a flag pole in front of their school, and on holidays they never forgot to hoist the Union Jack, while everybody looked on with admiration.

It wasn't long after the school was built that all the ratepayers got together and built a barn. It could hold six horses. It was badly needed because some drove or rode horseback for as far as three miles. The farmers that used horses to send their children to school with, took turns to bring a load of hay to feed them while they were stabled during school hours.

Intimately concerned with the operation of the school were the unpaid administrators, the elected school trustees. There were three elected, and their normal term of office was for three years, with the terms staggered, so that the school board always consisted of two trustees with experience. Their duties were manifold. They had to build, maintain, and see to the caretaking of the school building. They were responsible for the school site, the condition of the grounds, well and fences. They had to equip the school with furniture, books, maps, and teaching supplies. It was their duty to see that the wood supply was adequate. On them was the burden of finding a teacher and if necessary, dismissing of teachers that were not doing their job properly. They were responsible for setting the tax rate and for collecting the taxes as well. The Department of Education even expected the local school boards to enforce the school attendance act and regulations.

This last duty they did not perform very well. Rural trustees simply would not prosecute their neighbours for failure to send their children to school. Thus year after year, inspector after inspector complained of the irregularities of attendance in the schools. The harried school trustees and inspectors alike must have heaved a sigh of relief when in 1913 the enforcement of the school attendance was taken out of the hands of the school boards and vested in those of the newly appointed provincial truant officer, Mr.M. M. O'Brien.

Just as they hated to enforce the School Attendance Act against their neighbours, so were they loath to proceed against them for non-payment of taxes. The result was that creditors of the school district often had to

wait for the money and many teachers were not paid on time. In such cases, if the school boards did not speedily put their affairs in order, the Minister of Education did not hesitate to replace them with his own nominee. To my recollection it never did happen, but the law was there and could be used. Most trustees served their communities to the best of their abilities. Their school inspectors, if not their electors, appreciated their worth.

This Champlain School was typical of all the one room country schools in our district such as the St. Laurent, Mameastic, Duvernay and Luzan. Children rode their horses as many as four or five miles to school. Others walked two or three miles. They dressed warmly in long woollen underwear, home knitted stockings, felt boots, sheepskin or Red River coats, knitted toques, scarves and mitts, plowing through the snow carrying their books and lunch pails, which was usually a discarded five pound lard pail. Sometimes on the coldest winter days, they had to do their lessons wearing their coats, while the woodstove tried vainly to get the room warm.

Horses were stabled during school hours in the school house barn and supplied with hay by the nearby farmers or each brought their daily ration with them.

However, then, as now, education was taken seriously by some, and many country school students went on to make great contributions in their professions, of teaching, and business life of the west.

In June 1920, tenders were sent out for the construction of a three room bungalow 20x18 with attached veranda. It was to be painted inside and outside, white with blue trimmings. The successful bidder was Ferdinand Moisin for $200.00. The first teacher to use the new building was Mr. Alphonse Gallant.

We have built the school, barn, and teacherage and have not mentioned the unsung heros: (The School Teachers). They had to teach 30 to 40 children, from grade one to eight, plus half an hour of French and half an hour of religion. They were the mothers, the nurses, the doctors, the counsellor, and above all the peacemaker for the whole class. And had to make sure that they were all well dressed before they took off for home, to battle against the cold winter.

Their day usually started about 7 A.M., when they had to dress up and go light the fire at the school, so that the school would be warm when the children began to arrive for classes at 9 A.M. They also had to bring a fresh pail of water, because the water that was left over the day before had to be dumped out. If it was forgotten, the water would be turned to a solid block of ice with a round bottomed pail as a result. They were usually paid $5.00 extra a month for this service, which included sweeping and keeping the classroom clean. Sometimes one of the older children would take on the job.

After 1910, 75% of the teachers were ladies. The men seemed to go more for other professions such as doctors, lawyers, and other more lucrative business. Wages in 1910 were from $400.00 per year for permit teachers to $600.00 for qualified teachers just beginning. Most ladies didn't go by the beginners stage, because after they taught one year in a location, she was bound to find herself a husband, as the girls were in great demand by the numerous bachelors of the district. So the school was kept busy from year to year looking for new replacements.

Wages and grants to operate the school changed from year to year, so I wouldn't dwell on that too much, but one thing for sure as it is today, the Department of Education made sure there was no surplus.

During the first years of operation the school district used to get their books audited by the Secretary of the Municipal District of Champlain #544, who was Severin Leblanc. When Hector Coutu was secretary for the Champlain District #1776 in 1932, the books were audited by the provincial Auditing Department.

Here are some brief excerpts from the records of meetings held in 1932, when I (Hector Coutu) was Secretary Treasurer.

The Annual meeting was held on January 14th, 1932. Posters had been posted for 15 days before the annual meeting was held, stating who the outgoing trustee was, to be re-elected or a new member elected. At that meeting, Mr. Tom Melnychuck was re-elected by acclamation, to serve another term of three years on the school board. The board re-elected Albert Coutu as the chairman for the coming years. Hector Coutu was re-elected as Secretary Treasurer for the coming years. His salary was set at $25.00 per annum.

The new business for the coming year was as follows:

Some of the parents complained that the teachers were giving the children too much homework. The board considered a little homework would not hurt the children especially in the winter when they had nothing to do to pass the time away. On the other hand they could not see the point of overcrowding them too much. It was unanimously agreed that the chairman talk the matter over with the teacher.

A motion was made to put out tenders for 24 ricks of wood; (a rick was 30 inches wide, four feet high and eight feet long). The wood had to be sound white poplar, to be sawed and ricked at the school yard before the first of May 1932. Anything over six inches had to be split. Tenders had to be in to the secretary by the first of April.

Tenders to be put out to get the school kalsimined; the walls and ceiling had to be washed before two coats of paint applied. Also to paint the woodwork with two coats of white paint. Work to be completed during the Easter holidays.

Another motion passed was to increase the money allowed to buy treats for the children for the Christmas concert from three dollars to five. This motion was unanimously approved by all.

A motion was made to put out tenders to get the school washed after the painting was completed. Tenders to be in by the first of April also.

At a meeting on April 2nd, 1932 the following tenders were accepted. Gifford Hillerud got the tender for the 24 ricks of wood at $1.75 a cord. Albert Didier's

tender for painting and Kalsimining was accepted at $30.00. He also got the tender for washing the complete school after the painting was done. His successful bid was for the large sum of three dollars.

On July the second 1932 a special meeting was held and it was decided to re-hire Miss Celestine Robin for another term of one year. Her salary was set at $900.00 or $90.00 per month, for the 10 months she was to teach. Also to allow her another $6.00 a month to do the janitor work, which consisted of making fires, sweep the floor daily and bring a fresh pail of water every day.

The old school did not quite make it for half a century because in 1948, it was replaced by a new one. This school was only used for four years, when centralization was being introduced all through the Province and was the only alternative here, as it was getting increasingly difficult to find teachers that were willing to come to the rural schools.

With the coming of centralization, road conditions have improved, as they had to be kept open all winter. Although on the start the youngsters often grew weary and tired of those long bus rides, this was the price for progress. No doubt our children got better education from this change. Today the children take this in their stride as though no other way ever existed. The days of walking two or three miles to an ungraded, one room school is but a memory. However those that received their education that way, recall those days with fondness and from listening to the stories, there were few dull moments.

Remember when . . . An old timer is one who recalls when, he got a strapping at school and got another at home for getting one at school.

Today . . . The guy who boasts about walking to school in all kind of adverse weather, but forgets to mention that its only half a block down the street to the schoolyard.

The first annual meeting of the Champlain School District #1776 was held on —

January 10th, 1909; the trustees were P. Cuillerier, V.E. Ouellette and A. Connelly chairman. Eugene Ouellette was secretary-treasurer. Reg. Thebideau was hired as first teacher; $150.00 for three months.

January 30th, 1910; trustees were L. Cuillerier, Chas. Stahn, and Claude Fournel. Miss Bilb was hired as teacher for three months for $150.00.

January 1911; same trustees as 1910. No school that year.

January 1912; a complete new slate of trustees. A. Gamache, F. Ouellette and Albert Coutu chairman. Eugene Ouellette secretary treasurer for $50.00 a year. Stan Aucoin was hired as teacher for June to November for $55.00 a month. Mill rate increased to 6½¢ per acre.

January 1913; the trustees were F. Ouellette, A. Gamache and Albert Coutu chairman. Dr. Hardie was hired as secretary treasurer at $52.00 per year. Miss Lucy Coutu was hired at $3.00 per day. On May 31st, Miss Coutu resigned as teacher and the school board had to get a loan of $25.00 from the Mercantile Bank in Vegreville to pay her in full. The mill rate was increased to 7 mills per acre.

January 1914; the trustees were J. McCullough, A. Connolly and Albert Coutu chairman. Mr. Therien was hired as teacher at $60.00 a month for June to September.

January 13th, 1915; the trustees were T. McCullough, A. Connolly and Albert Coutu chairman. Miss Woodhouse was hired as teacher. She resigned on October 1st. Miss Marg. Gamache was hired to finish the term at $60.00 a month.

January 25th, 1916; the trustees were J. Gallager, Arthur Gamache and Albert Coutu chairman. M. Riopel was hired to teach for four months at $60.00 a month. T. McCullough was hired as secretary treasurer for $50.00 a year.

January 15th, 1917; the same trustees were on the board for the year. On April 1st, Miss Neomi Legault was hired as teacher. She was replaced by Alida Gamache on August 1st. Alphonse Gallant was hired as secretary treasurer.

January 7th, 1918; the trustees were A. Gamache Jr., A. Gamache Sr. and A. Coutu chairman. Miss Redmond was hired to teach at $60.00 a month. J. Coulombe was hired as secretary treasurer. The mill rate was increased to 10¢ per acre.

January 11th, 1919; the trustees were Elmer Hillerud, A. Gamache and A. Coutu chairman. Miss Agnes McMartin was hired as teacher on April 22 at $50.00 per month. She had to do all the cleaning and had to supervise the children during noon hour. Mr. Gallant was hired to finish the school term. Mill rate increased to 12¢ per acre.

January 10th, 1920; the trustees were A. Major, Elmer Hillerud and A. Coutu chairman. Mr. A. Gallant was hired as teacher for the year.

January 10th, 1921; the trustees were all returned by acclamation. Rita McCoshon was hired to teach but quit after only one month. Mr. E.J. Verreau hired to teach till the end of June for $100.00 a month. Mill rate increased to 12½¢ per acre. Mr. S. LeBanc was hired to teach from September 1st to June 31st, 1922 at $1200.00 a year.

January 14th, 1922; all trustees went in by acclamation. Mr. T. Callahan was hired as secretary at $50.00 per year. Mill rate was increased to 16¢ per acre. In August Mr. F. Courtemanche was hired as teacher at $90.00 a month and he had to do the janitor work plus supervising.

January 6th, 1923; the trustees were A. Gamache, A. Major and A. Coutu chairman. In August Miss Verrau was hired as teacher for the coming term at $1200.00 a year.

January 12th, 1924; the trustees were A.D. Gamache, A. Gamache and A. Coutu chairman. On January the 24th, Miss Verrau came to school and told the children to return home as she was quitting. She gave the keys to the Coutu children to give to their dad

because he was the chairman. Miss Juliette Grenier was hired as teacher till a qualified teacher could be found. On May 3rd, Dan Gamache was hired as teacher to finish the term at $100.00 a month.

January 10, 1925; the trustees were E. Hillerud, A. Gamache and A. Coutu chairman. Thomas Calahan was hired as secretary treasurer at $55.00 a year. In August Dan Gamache was re-hired as teacher for the coming term at $1150.00 a year.

January 9th, 1926; the same trustees were elected on the school board for 1926. Daniel Gamache was re-hired as teacher. He also was the secretary for the year.

January 15th, 1927; the same trustees were re-elected for the coming year. At this meeting the ratepayers gave authority to the teacher to inspect the children for lice with a fine comb, and any found with some to write a note to the parents giving them three days to get rid of them or they will be reported to the Health Department. On December 28th, Mr. A. Beckett was hired to replace Daniel Gamache who had moved to St. Paul. S. LeBlanc was the new seceretary treasurer.

January 8th, 1927; the trustees were Frank Plouffe, A. Gamache and A. Coutu chairman. On July 28th, Mr. Beckett was asked to resign and P.A. Gauthier was hired at $1150.00 a year.

January 7th, 1928; there was no change of trustees and Mr. Gauthier was re-hired as teacher.

January 14th, 1929; the trustees were Camille Gamache, E. Hillerud and A. Coutu chairman. Fernando Lord was hired as secretary treasurer at $75.00 a year. P.A. Gauthier resigned on June 3rd, and Angela Hendel finished the term at $5.75 a day. September 1st. Irene Wickey was hired to teach at $1150.00 a year.

January 11th, 1930; the same trustees were re-elected for the coming year. Juliette Grenier was hired as secretary for $75.00 a year. Miss Wickey resigned at the end of her term and was replaced by Adele Roy for $1000.00 a year.

January 3rd, 1931; the trustees were H. Pare, E. Hillerud and A. Coutu chairman. Odelie Coutu was hired as secretary treasurer at sixty dollars a year. Miss Celestine Robin was hired to teach at $900.00 a year.

January 9th, 1932; the trustees were Tom Melnychuk, E. Hellerud and A. Coutu chairman. Hector Coutu hired as secretary treasurer for $25.00 a year. Miss Robin was re-hired for the coming year.

January 24th, 1933; the same trustees were re-elected for the coming term. Miss Robin resigned at the end of her term because she did not want to teach for the reduced wage the board had offered her. Miss Lucia Brosseau was hired to teach at $650.00 a year. Mr. Tom Melnychuk was hired as secretary treasurer after Hector Coutu left for Flin Flon, Manitoba. Tom got $25.00 a year for the position of secretary treasurer.

January 20th, 1934; the trustees were S. Snaychuk, H. Hellerud and Nick Wertypora. Miss Lucia Brosseau re-hired as teacher for the coming year. G. Ponich was hired as secretary treasurer for $30.00 a year.

January 18th, 1935; Albert Coutu, H. Hellerud and Steve Snaychuk. Mill rate decreased to 14¢ per acre.

January 4th, 1936; the same trustees were elected for the coming year. John Chester was hired as secretary treasurer at $35.00 a year. Mildred Pugh was hired as teacher to finish the school term. On September 1st, Miss C. Robin was hired to teach for $850.00 a year.

January 16th, 1937; the same trustees and secretary were re-elected for the coming term. Miss C. Robin was re-hired for the same wage as last year but she had to deduct $25.00 a month off her wages for the use of the teacherage.

January 17th, 1938; the trustees were Pete Skakun, A. Coutu and Steve Snaychuk chairman. J. Chester was secretary treasurer for $20.00 a year. Mr. Micky Fedoruk was hired as teacher for $850.00 a year, less $25.00 a month for house rent. It was understood that he had to do the janitor work.

January 13th, 1939; the trustees were P. Skakun, Silver Orleski and Tom Melnychuck chairman. John Chester was re-hired as secretary treasurer for $20.00 a year. M. Fedoruk was re-hired as teacher.

February 3rd, 1940; the same trustees and secretary were elected for the coming year.

After 1940 the Champlain School District #1776 was amalgamated with the Two Hills school district. There was no more electing of school board members on the local level. Teachers wages and school expenses were paid by the larger school district. Finally in the early 50's the school was closed down and the children bussed to the Two Hills school. From then on this country school was just a passing memory.

From 1940 till the closing down of the school the following teachers were: Mrs. Alex Melnyk, Marie Soulou (Supervisor), Bareyko, Steve Zalashek and Alex Leonty. Later the school building was bought by the ratepayers and used as a community hall for a number of years.

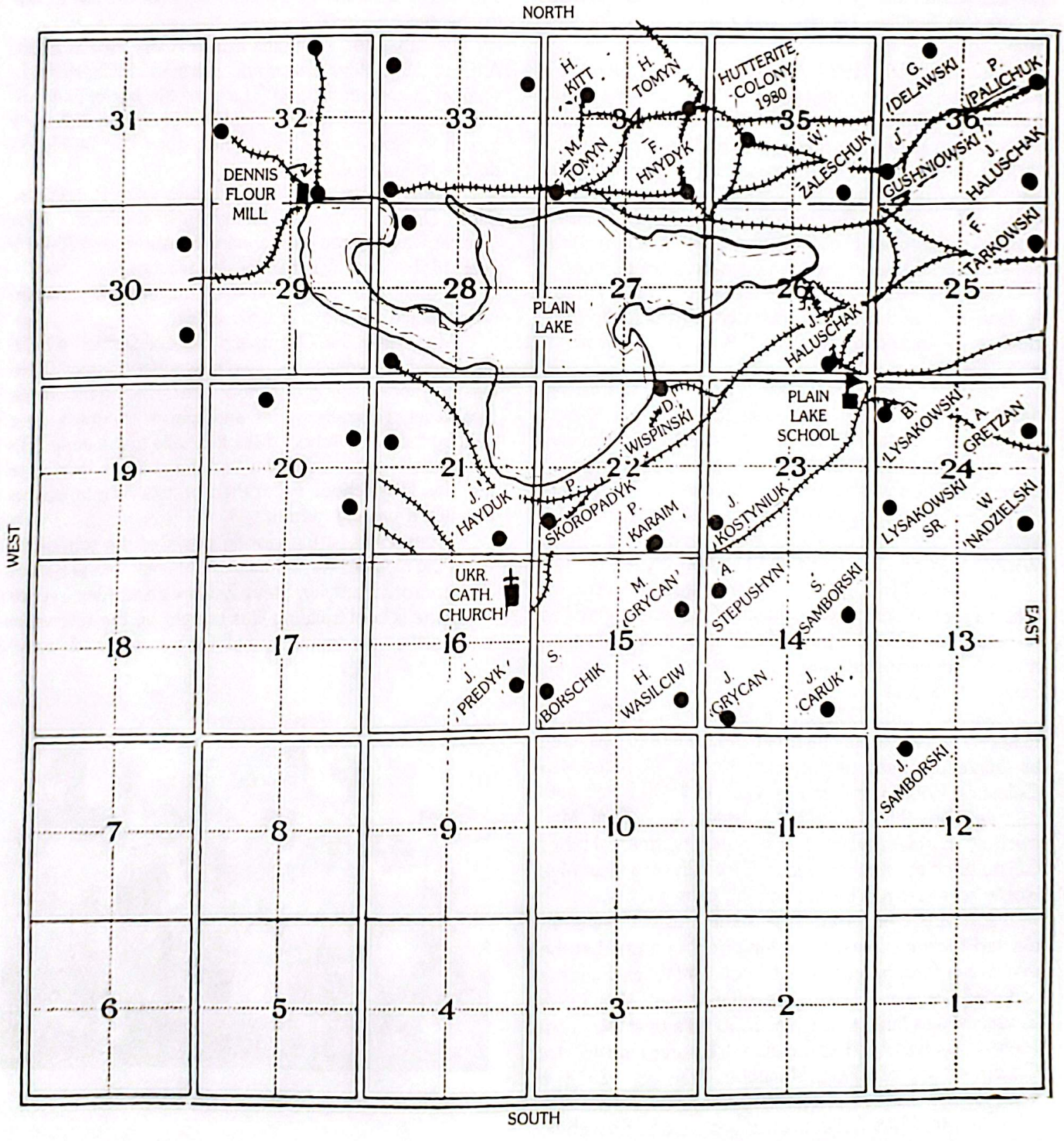
Champlain school children with their teacher, Mrs. Melnyk.

PLAIN LAKE SCHOOL DISTRICT RESIDENTS

BEFORE 1930

EVEN NOS. OF SECTIONS — HOMESTEADS
ODD NOS. OF SECTIONS — C.P.R. LAND
SEC. 8 & 26 — HUDSON BAY LAND
SEC. 11 & 29 — SCHOOL LAND

TOWNSHIP 53 RANGE 12 WEST OF 4TH MERIDIAN



TRAILS TO 1930.

PLAIN LAKE SCHOOL AND DISTRICT

by Michael H. Tomyn

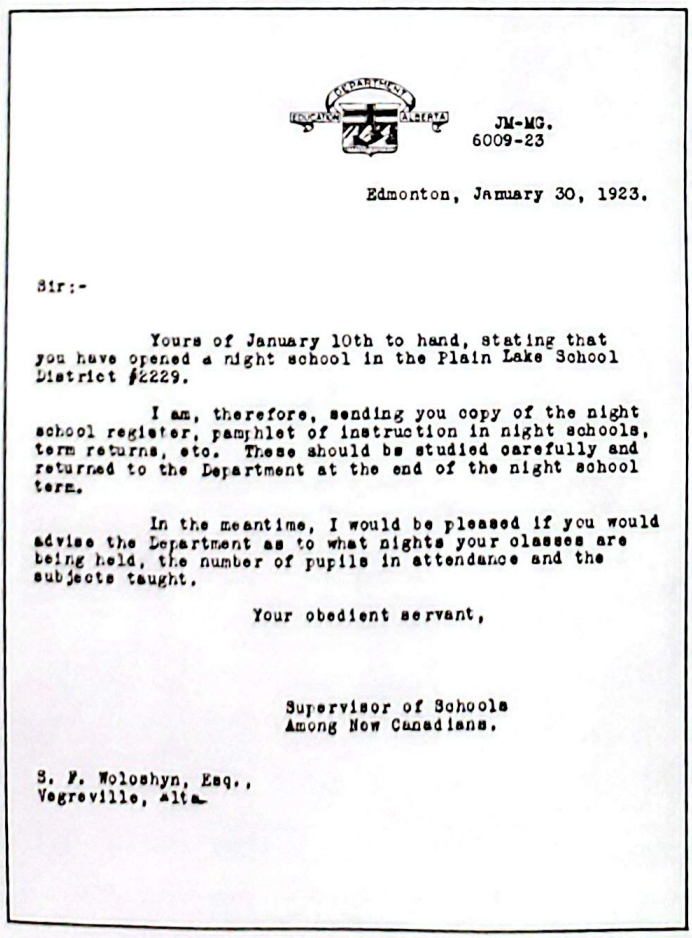
The Plain Lake School District No. 2229 was organized in 1910. The school was located ten miles (16 km.) south-east of Two Hills (as the crow flies) — on the north-east corner of NE 23-53-12 W4. The first school board consisted of (as best as we can ascertain): Bronko Lysakowski — chairman, Dick Wispinski, Harry Tomyn, and Maxim Tomyn — Secretary Treasurer.

The school was like every other country school at that time. It was painted white with a green trim (not a red schoolhouse). The building had one room, a porch for coats and lunches, and four windows on each side. The interior had the following features: big heater, long stretch of stove pipe, platform in front, double desks equipped with inkwells, globe, water pail and dipper (later a crock water fountain and cups were considered better), maps in a box over the blackboard, flag, picture of the King, yardsticks (used for various purposes), blackboard, chalk, chalk liner, blackboard brushes, teacher's desk, a wall pendulum clock, some library books, huge Webster dictionary, pencil sharpener, wood and ash pails, brooms and dustpan. (The regulation strap was usually kept out of sight, but it did not get covered with cobwebs as it does today.)

The teacherage (a shack) contained one room with the bare essentials. Because the school and teacherage lacked insulation, they were usually very cold in winter and very hot in summer.

Plain Lake School — 1910 to 1928. Note teacherage (shack) in middle and barn on left.

1919 — Front Row - left to right: Nick Palichuk, John Wispinski, John Tomyn, John Boychuk, Dara Kostyniuk, Annie Wispinski. Second Row - left to right: Walter Kitt, John Makarowski, Nick Karaim, Annie Zaleschuk, Nancy Hnydyk, Mary Palichuk. Third Row - left to right: Anton Stepushyn, Mike Karaim, Peter Grycan, Peter Stepushyn, Jennie Predyk, Nancy Skoropadyk, Frances Petasky. Back Row - left to right: Panko Fedorchuk, Teacher; Nick Caruk, Harry Skoropadyk, Tillie Predyk, Tillie Stepushyn, Annie Tomyn.



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION ALBERTA

JM-MG.
6009-23

Edmonton, January 30, 1923.

Sir:-

Yours of January 10th to hand, stating that you have opened a night school in the Plain Lake School District #2229.

I am, therefore, sending you copy of the night school register, pamphlet of instruction in night schools, term returns, etc. These should be studied carefully and returned to the Department at the end of the night school term.

In the meantime, I would be pleased if you would advise the Department as to what nights your classes are being held, the number of pupils in attendance and the subjects taught.

Your obedient servant,

Supervisor of Schools
Among New Canadians.

S. F. Woloshyn, Esq.,
Vegreville, Alta.

Plain Lake School — July 10, 1921. Front - kneeling - Peter Shavchook, teacher - 17 years old. Front Row - left to right: John Boychuk, Mike Hnydyk, Nick Palichuk, Alec Kostiniuk, John Makorowski, Matt Hnydyk (tall one), William Tomyn (barely visible - "fooling around"). Back Row - left to right: Anton Stepushyn, Peter Stepushyn, Harry Skoropadyk, Nick Caruk.

The schoolyard was two acres in size. The hill on the south-east corner of the schoolyard proved to be a good recreation spot, especially in wintertime. The pump in the yard supplied the water. The barn built about 1928 billeted the horses used by the children. The schoolyard was fenced and fire-guarded.

The teachers were as follows (to the best of our knowledge): Mr. Banes 1912; Mr. Fisher 1913 — he was a preacher also; Mr. Banes 1914 — this was his second appointment; Mr. Hrynchyshyn 1915 — he taught Ukrainian after school; Mr. P. Fedorchuk 1916 — later he was the first druggist in Two Hills — he was also a great hunter; Mr. Vango 1917 — from England — he had a canoe, was a good swimmer and taught swimming and diving after school; Mr. P. Fedorchuk 1918-19 (second round); Mr. A.C. Francis 1920; Mr. P.M. Shavchook 1921 — a young lad of seventeen; Mr. Mike Skomie 1921 (part year); Mr. John Svarich 1922; Mr. Sam Woloshyn 1922-23 — he taught night school, mostly arithmetic for the pioneer farmers; C.O. Connell — 1923; Miss Edith Russel 1924; Mr. John Nagle 1925-26 — he was a great hunter and had Matt Hnydyk for a faithful partner — he wore breeches and high top boots and walked a lot; Mr. William Tomyn 1927-28 — he was the recipient of the Lord Strathcona Trust Shield for having a well-organized school.

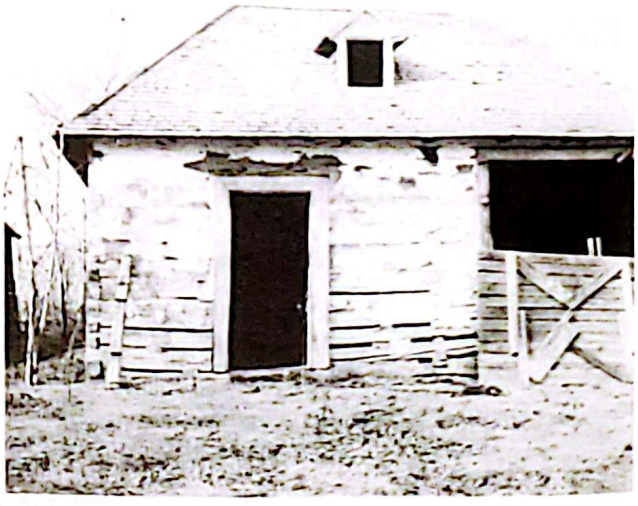
During the summer of 1928, Jake Glum added the second room and attached a long porch to the building. The teacherage was moved and two small rooms were added. Now there were two teachers on staff every year till 1939, as follows: Pearl and Mary Podealuk 1929; William and Mary Kindrachuk 1930-36; Pearl Podealuk and William Grekul 1936-37; Nick Skoropad and William Grekul 1937-39. Since 1939 classes were carried on in only one room. William Grekul taught from 1936 to 1943 (making a total of seven years). Thus Mr. Grekul taught the longest in Plain Lake School. John P. Buk taught from 1943 to 1947 and Viola Humen in 1948. Because of the small enrolment, the school was closed at this time and the children were vanned to Two Hills.

In the early 1950's the school and teacherage were sold to the Soldans of Two Hills.

Plain Lake School — 1924. Front Row - left to right: Miss Edith Russel, teacher; Katie Hnydyk, Mary Kitt, Paul Gushniowski, William Hnydyk, Mike Hnydyk, Peter Mzychka. Back Row - left to right: Cecille Russel, Nancy Hnydyk, Walter Kitt, Peter Stepushyn.

Plain Lake school children 1928 class. William Tomyn Teacher.

Plain Lake two-room school, built in 1929. Enlarged teacherage in background.



Plain Lake Post Office — Steve Predyk was postmaster — 1920's and 30's. Now vacant building.

Students who went on to greater heights were Michael H. Tomyn, school teacher and principal for 44 years, Nick P. Skoropad, teacher for 43 years, now retired; William P. Skoropad, teacher and University professor, about 40 years; Alec Saruk, teacher and Vice-Principal for 43 years; William Tomyn, teacher and legislator for approximately 40 years; Bill Haluschak, teacher and salesman; Steve Haluschak, optometrist; Mike J. Haluschak, optometrist; Annie Hayduk, teacher for about 30 years; Harvey Hayduk, teacher for about 35 years.

For recreation the school children played many skill games like Prisoners' Base and softball (earlier baseball). At noon the children would go swimming in Kostyniuk's Lake or Plain Lake (boys "here" and girls "there" — there were no swimming suits in those days). In winter all the children played hockey, mostly with curved sticks, on the frozen sloughs, or they would slide down the hill on any make-shift contraption like an old desk top or seat, a piece of tin, some wide board, or a piece of cardboard.

The curriculum called for a garden on the schoolyard. Only some problems arose. There was no one to weed the garden during the summer holidays and sometimes the neighbor's cow convinced herself that the garden belonged to her.

Some early Plain Lake School District residents were Alec Stepushyn, Peter Karaim, Dick Wispinski, Peter Skoropadyk, John Hayduk, Steve Predyk, Mike Grycan, Harry Wasilciw, Sam Borschik, John Predyk, John Grycan, John Saruk, Gregory Tarkowski, Frank Tarkowski, Joe Gushniowski, Philip Palichuk, Hnat Boychuk, Matt Makarowski, Andrew Lotoski, William Zaleschuk, Fred Hnydyk, Maxim Tomyn, Harry Kitt, Harry Tomyn, G. Delawski, John Haluschuk, Anton Gretzan, Walter Nadzielski, Bronko Lysakowski, Frank Muzechka, Joe Nadzielski, Andrew Lotoski, Samborski family, Stanley Palsitt.

The settlers in Plain Lake were predominantly Ukrainian, with a few Polish families. The area was settled early in the 1900's. A log Ukrainian Catholic Church was erected on NE 16-53-12-W4 shortly after the homesteads were taken up. In 1928, when the big new church was built, the old church was converted into a hall. Later a big hall was built on the grounds and the old church building was torn down. The bell in the bell tower was rung at Easter, and was used to announce funerals. A Labor Hall north of the church grounds was quite active, especially during the economic depression.

Three calamities struck the district within two years. On July 23, 1918, a heavy frost destroyed the crops and in late fall the Spanish influenza claimed several lives. Then in 1919 all the crops dried out and feed had to be bought, in most cases at exorbitant prices.

The winter of 1919-20 was very heavy and all the fish in Plain Lake died at that time, creating quite a stench in the spring. The fish had been so plentiful that winter that they could be scooped up with pitchforks when they came up to breathe through holes cut in the ice.

In 1911-12 Jim Dennis had a store and flour mill on

First Plain Lake Church — to 1929.

Plain Lake Hall built in 1946.

New Plain Lake Church built in 1928.

the western extremity of Plain Lake, where the creek drains the lake at high water, by Marcin Petasky's farmyard. The mill was on the east side of the road, and the store on the west side. The flour mill was run by a steam engine that used the water from the creek. During harvest, Mr. Dennis used the steam engine to run the threshing machine. He also had a sawmill where the steam engine supplied the motive power.

In the store Mr. Dennis carried the bare essentials like pepper, salt, sugar, matches, and coal oil. These could be bought for cash or in kind, mostly eggs. The storekeeper also caught fish in the lake, and kept them in nets. Thus he could sell fresh fish to his customers.

The winter of 1973-74 had much snow. The spring thaw created much water, so much that the lake came over the high road grade on the north-west end, a crest that was never reached before.

In 1930 Matt Hnydyk built a beautiful boat which he christened "Plain Lake Water Service". The boat made numerous trips across the lake, carrying up to five or six passengers. When some lovebirds wanted a bit of privacy, they would "snitch" the boat and row to the island in the middle of the lake. Privacy? Yes, to a degree. Except that some inquisitive lads owned a telescope or binoculars.

For a long time the Plain Lake post office was operated by Steve Predyk, on NW 10-53-12 W4, then by John Skoropad on NW 15-53-12 W4.

The writer is grateful to the following people for their assistance: Matt Hnydyk (in large), John P. Buk and William Grekul.

Boat — made by Matt Hnydyk. Georgina Tomyn in boat, 1938.

Mr. Dennis owner of flour mill (1912). Annie Petatsky (Tomyn) on right.

THE SCHOOL IN BROSSEAU #1614

The first school in Brosseau was located on SW¼ 12-56-12-W4th. On May 1, 1911 it was moved to SW¼ 11-56-12-W4th. The name was changed from Brosseau to St. Laurent School in April 1914. The barn was built in April 1920 and the teacherage in the spring of 1922.

Mr. Alphonse Gallant and his class, in front of the St. Laurent school in 1914.

The teachers were:
1907 — J.T. Dorais, $50 a month
1910 — Napoleon Despins, $50 a month
1911 — Alphonse Gallant, $55 a month

January 1913 — Public exams were held in the School District #1614.

Those present were:

Priest — Father Leduc
President — Marc Girard
Councillors — Alphonse Ouellette, J.B. Vincent, S. Kabage, Ferrier Ouellette, Eugene Ouellette
Secretary — Dr. Hardy
Treasurer — L. Despins
27 students out of a possible 29

Prizes were awarded as follows:

Regular attendance — Armand Vincent, Blanche Chouinard, Emile Girard
Arithmetic — Thomas Legree, Adrien Ouellette
French Grammar — Arthur Drolet
English Grammar — Wilfred Girard, Catherine Therien

January 1914 — Exam Results:

Conduct — Sylva Ouellette, Lucienne Despins
Catechism — Jeanne Drolet
General progress — Alice Vincent
Progress in French — Arthur Lavallee

Prizes were donated by J.R. Boyle and Wiflred Gariepy.

A concert followed organized by the students: Blanche Chouinard, Arthur and Jeanne Drolet, Adrien Ouel-

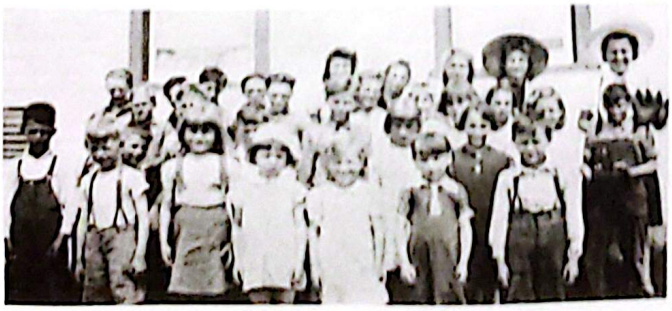
lette, Lucienne Despins, Adrienne Despins, Sylva Ouellette, Marie Lavallee, and Adelard Ouellette.

At the end of the evening speeches were delivered by Father Leduc, Alphonse Ouellette, Eugene Ouellette, Mr. Despins thanking Mr. Gallant of the good work he was doing for the children.

1919 — Raymond Leblanc
1920 — S. Crowther (May & June)
1920 — E. Courtemanche, $100 a month
1922 — R.B. Lafleur finished the school year
1923 — J.A. Landry In July Mr. Landry resigned and V. DesLauriers was assigned but he fell sick so Miss A.M. Boisjoli was hired. She accepted another school so they wrote Mr. McLeod and Mr. Keir. Receiving no answer they hired Catherine Therien., $100 a month.
1924 — Miss Fortier, $1000 a year
1925 — Eva McDonald (May & June)
1927 — Henri Surette until December
1928 — Mr. Turnbull (District advertised for a bilingual teacher)

Children in the Brosseau school are Helen, Edith, Prisella Smith, Jack, Elizabeth, Joyce, Judy, Richard, Ernest, Charlotte and June Archinuk. Phylis and Thelma Kabage. Fred Gordy. Elsie Nipets. Lillian Popowich. Gisele, Lucille, Gerald, Fernand, Andre, Gaetan, Vitaline and Norman Ouellette. Gwen, Carmen and Suzan. Ed, Doris and Katheleen Bandura. Allen Zimmerman the tall one in the back. Leo, Threse and Richard Marceau. Edna and Tilly Sidor. Caroline Logozar, Doris Vincent.

St. Laurent school class of 1912.



St. Laurent class of '45, teacher — Miss Carmen Brosseau

1929 — Mr. Daly finished term
1929-1931 — Simone Brosseau
1932-1938 — Carmen Brosseau and again 1941-1946
1938-1941 — Florence Brosseau
1947- Florence Brosseau
Nick Hauca
Helen Bandura, (Supervisor)
1952 — St. Laurent School was closed and the pupils were transferred to Two Hills. Consolidation of smaller districts into one central unit had arrived.

JANUARY 6, 1907; — the first trustees of the St. Laurent School District #1614 were, A. Drolet, A. Gray and Ed Brosseau, Chairman. Ambroise Grey was hired as Secretary Treasurer for $60.00 a year.

JANUARY 14, 1908; — the trustees and secretary were the same as 1907. The ratepayers decided to close the new school and rent Edmond Brosseau's log building on the S.W. 10-56-12-W4th till they found a more centralized location to move this new building to.

JANUARY 15, 1909; — the trustees were F. Flammand, Philip Paradis and Ed Brosseau, Chairman. J.T. Dorais was Secretary at $50.00 a month. Teacher's salary was $50.00 a month from May 1st to November 31st. Mill rate set at 5¢ per acre.

JANUARY 15, 1910; — the trustees were Marc Girard, P. Paradis and Ed Brosseau, Chairman.

JANUARY 14, 1911; — the trustees were Johnny Brosseau, M. Girard and Ed Brosseau, Chairman. A. Gray was hired as secretary for $50.00 a year. The contract was given to Lucien Mercier to move the new school to the S.W. 11-56-12-W4th a distance of over a mile, for $324.00 and be placed on a cement foundation at his cost. The mill rate was increased to 10¢ per acre.

JANUARY 15, 1912; — the same board was re-elected for the year.

JANUARY 8, 1913; — the trustees were Alphonse Ouellette, L. Chagnon and M. Girard, Chairman, Dr. Hardy was secretary.

JANUARY 13, 1914; — the trustees were J.B. Vincent, A. Ouellette and M. Girard, Chairman. A. Gallant was secretary for $57.50 a year.

JANUARY 23, 1915; — the trustees were N. Despin, P.A. Page and J.B. Vincent, Chairman.

JANUARY 16, 1916; — the same board was re-elected for the coming year.

JANUARY 15, 1917; — the same board was re-elected. The mill rate was increased to 12¢ per acre.

JANUARY 14, 1918; — the trustees were Joe Brosseau, N. Despin and J.B. Vincent, Chairman. A. Gray was hired as secretary for $60.00 a year.

JANUARY 4, 1919; — the trustees were P.A. Page, Joe Brosseau and J.B. Brosseau, Chairman. R. Leblanc was hired to teach at $960.00 a year.

JANUARY 12, 1920; — Joseph Grenier, A.T. Brosseau and J.B. Brosseau were trustees.

JANUARY 21, 1921; — the same board was re-elected and the mill rate was increased to 12½¢ per acre.

JANUARY 14, 1922; — the trustees were A. Ouellette, J.B. Vincent and J.B. Brosseau, Chairman.

JANUARY 15, 1923; — the same board was re-elected for the coming year.

JANUARY 14, 1924; — the trustees were T. Callahan, A. Ouellette and J.B. Brosseau, Chairman.

JANUARY 16, 1925; — the same board was re-elected for the coming year.

JANUARY 23, 1926; — the same board was re-elected. The mill rate was increased to 19¢.

JANUARY 8, 1927; — the trustees were A. Ouellette, J.B. Brosseau and A. Grey, Chairman.

Juliette Grenier was hired as secretary for $60.00 a year.

JANUARY 16, 1928; — the trustees were F. Lord, A. Gray and A. Ouellette, Chairman. The mill rate was increased to 20¢ per acre.

JANUARY 14, 1929; — the trustees were Rene Grenier, F. Lord and A. Gray, Chairman. On June 19th, J.B. Brosseau replaced Mr. Lord on the board after he drowned.

JANUARY 4, 1930; — the trustees were A. Ouellette, Rene Grenier and J.B. Brosseau, Chairman. Juliette Grenier was secretary at $75.00 a year.

JANUARY 10, 1931; — the trustees were Joe Brosseau, R. Grenier and J.B. Brosseau, Chairman.

JANUARY 9, 1932; — the trustees were J.B. Vincent, Joe Brosseau and J.B. Brosseau, Chairman.

JANUARY 14, 1933; — the trustees were Adelard Ouellette, J.B. Brosseau and J.B. Vincent, Chairman. Juliette Grenier was hired as secretary at $25.00 a year.

JANUARY 13, 1934; — the same board was re-elected for the coming year.

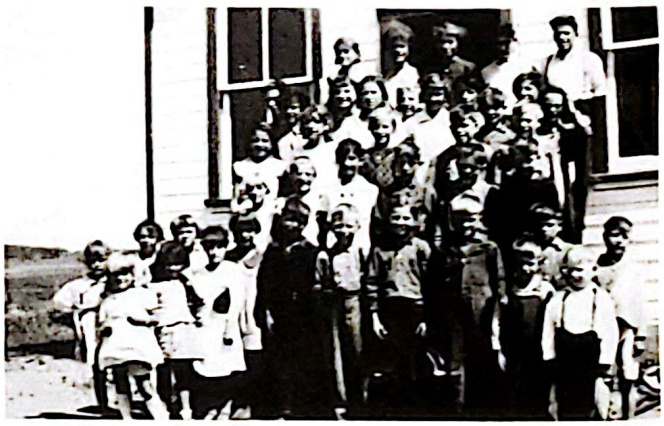
JANUARY 5, 1935; — the trustees were R. Grenier, Adelard Ouellette and J.B. Brosseau, Chairman.

JANUARY 17, 1936; — the same board was re-elected for the coming year.

JANUARY 15, 1937; the trustees were Fred Rusnak, A. Ouellette and J.B. Brosseau, Chairman.

JANUARY 14, 1938; — the same board was re-elected for the coming year.

JANUARY 10, 1939; the trustees were B. Wirackowski, A. Ouellette and Fred Rusnak. This was the last year a School Board was elected from the area. The school expenses were paid by the Two Hills School Division.



St. Laurent school children, Guess who?

DUVERNAY SCHOOL #1573

JANUARY 1931; — Sam Chrapko, Joe Rioux, and Mose Theroux were trustees for 1931. P.A. Gauthier was hired to teach from September 1st to June 31st for $850.00 a year. He was also school Secretary for $30.00 a year.

JANUARY 16, 1932; — the trustees were the same as last year. Sam Chrapko was elected Chairman. P.A. Gauthier hired for another school term. Albert Nelson was hired as Secretary for 1932.

JANUARY 4, 1933; — The trustees were Jerry Lapierre, Sam Chrapko and Joe Rioux was Chairman for 1933. J. Archambeault was Secretary for $15.00 a year. Simone Brosseau was hired as teacher for $850.00 a year. (May 27, 1933)

JANUARY 11, 1934; — the trustees were J. Lapierre, J. Rioux and Kost Polahniuk, Chairman. Dmetro Sidor was hired as Secretary Treasurer for $20.00 a year. Mr. W. Masciuk was hired as teacher for the coming year.

JANUARY 12, 1935; — the trustees were J. Lapierre, John Chrapko and K. Polahniuk, Chairman. Metro Sidor was Secretary for $20.00 a year. Mr. W. Masciuk was offered the teaching position for $600.00 a year but he refused. Mr. W. Taschuk accepted to teach for $600.00.

JANUARY 11, 1936; — the trustees were Mose Theroux, John Chrapko and K. Polahniuk, Chairman. W. Taschuk was re-hired at $750.00 a year. Pete Padleski contracted to build a barn for $58.00.

JANAURY 16, 1937; — the trustees were William Hohol, M. Theroux and K. Polahniuk, Chairman. Metro Sidor was Secretary for $20.00 and W. Taschuk was re-hired to teach for $750.00.

JANUARY 15, 1938; — the trustees were E.F. Bigland, W. Hohol and Mose Theroux, Chairman.

This was the last year a school board was elected at the Duvernay School #1573. The hiring of teachers and paying of expenses was the responsibility of the School Board in Two Hills.

(We are sorry we couldn't find any records before 1931).

Students at the Duvernay School in 1927-28-29. The teacher, Miss Adele Roy is at the extreme top left. In the window is Philemon Sidor. In the front row from left to right: Slevinsky, Alex Verenka, Cecile Theroux?, Therese and Marie Paul Paradis, Lea Theroux, Slveinsky. Omer is unsure of the others in the picture.

Duvernay school and teacherage (1939).

COUNTRY SCHOOLS

Recollections by
Mertle (Werenka) Beatty

Our home (the Adam Werenka farm) was located just about mid-way between three schools: Duvernay, 3 miles; Nazir, 3¼ miles; and Luzan, 4 miles. Each school was too far for a grade one pupil to walk, therefore my parents were in a dilemma when I turned six.

They decided that I should live with my maternal grandparents, Mr. & Mrs. Harry Kott, seven miles south of Two Hills. I began my schooling at Laniuk School, but attended only until Christmas becuase I was so homesick.

Luzan School

The following year at age seven I attended Luzan School. When the weather was warm I walked across the farms (2½ miles). In the winter, Kathleen Dochuk and I boarded at her grandparents, the John Kupchenko's, and walked 1½ miles across the fields. Kathleen's uncle, Orest Kupchenko was 14 years old and in grade 8. The teacher at Luzan School that year (1944-45) was John Hohol. There were 27 students in grades 1 to 8. Luzan was a lovely two-room school and the extra room was used as a play room when it was too cold to play outside at recess and noon hour.

Duvernay School

The next year I started Grade 2 at Two Hills School and lived with my Grandma Marafta Werenka. But after Christmas once again I changed schools and this time I attended Duvernay School. John Hohol was teaching at Duvernay School that year and I was happy because I knew him and liked him. I boarded with Relatives (the Galganetz's) during the coldest months and walked the 3 miles when the weather was warmer.

Several things stand out in my memory of Duvernay School. The first is the movies we had at Brosseau Hall. On movie day (about once a month when the weather was warm) all the students walked one mile north to Duvernay and across the bridge to Brosseau hall, stopping along the way at Dan Towpich's General Store in Duvernay to buy a nickel's worth of sunflower seeds. A nickel bought a lot of seeds and a dime bought enough to last the whole afternoon. Most of the films were educational films, but usually the last one of the day was a cartoon — a real treat in those pre-T.V. days.

Another thing I remember well is the geography and history lessons that the Grade 7 and 8 students had. We who were in the younger grades always listened in. Then at recess we would look with envy at the maps the older students were drawing, using indian ink and straight pens.

The major social event of the school year was the Christmas Concert, and John Hohol was known to put on the best Christmas Concerts in the district. There were numerous dances and reels with the girls dressed in matching crepe paper dresses. There were the choral speeches, recitations and Christmas carols. And there always were some Ukrainian dialogues (funny ones) and of course, the Ukrainian dancing. At various times during the concert someone "arrived" with a message from Duvernay saying that Santa was on the way and would be arriving soon.

The older students and most of the boys were always involved in sports — softball, kickball and broomball. In June we had inter-school games. I recall Brosseau and Rannock Schools coming to play softball. The players all piled onto the back of someone's pickup truck; there were no charter busses for school trips.

The younger girls, I remember, became involved in making and dressing paper dolls. Some girls had store-bought dolls, but those who didn't made their own dolls out of cardboard and used Eaton's catalogue pictures for the faces and clothes. Our paper dolls had fabulous two-storey houses made out of cardboard boxes and beautifully furnished with sofas and dressers made out of match boxes and jello boxes. They had color co-ordinated slipcovers drapes and other furnishings. It seems we were never bored, either at home or at school.

The Libraries in the one-room schools usually consisted of one bookcase of books and not too many of those books were for younger readers. Favorite books were read and re-read many times. These one-room schools usually had students from Grades one to nine. Many times the older students helped the younger ones when the teacher was busy with another group, and it worked well. Today we call this peer tutoring.

Nazir School

When I was in Grade 3 the next year, my sister Frances was now ready for school, so both of us walked 3¼ miles south to Nazir School. There was a shortage of teachers in 1946-45 so we had a "supervisor" Miss Sophie Pawliuk, and worked on correspondence courses. In the fall of 1947 we had a certified teacher again and Frances and I continued at Nazir. At christmas time we were told that Nazir was being closed and we would be bussed to Two Hills. Apparently Brosseau children were already being bussed. So on the first day of school in January of 1948, we walked 1¼ miles to our pick-up corner and were met by a big, brand-new shiny yellow school bus and driver Metro Rybak. For farm kids who had ridden in only a pick-up truck, this was truly an exciting experience!

Two Hills School

Not so exciting, though was the classroom situation in Two Hills School. It was bursting at the seams while awaiting the building of a new school. Temporary classrooms were set up in the School Divison Office, the fire hall and the Evangelical Free Church. Eventually construction of the new Junior-Senior High School was completed and we moved into the lovely new school.

I have many happy memories of good teachers and great learning experiences, both in the country schools as well as in the lovely new consolidated school at Two Hills. An outstanding teacher whom I must pay tribute to is Elsie Ponich whom I had in Grade 5. If one can be allowed to have a favorite teacher, Mrs. Ponich was my favorite because she made learning a most pleasurable and rewarding experience.

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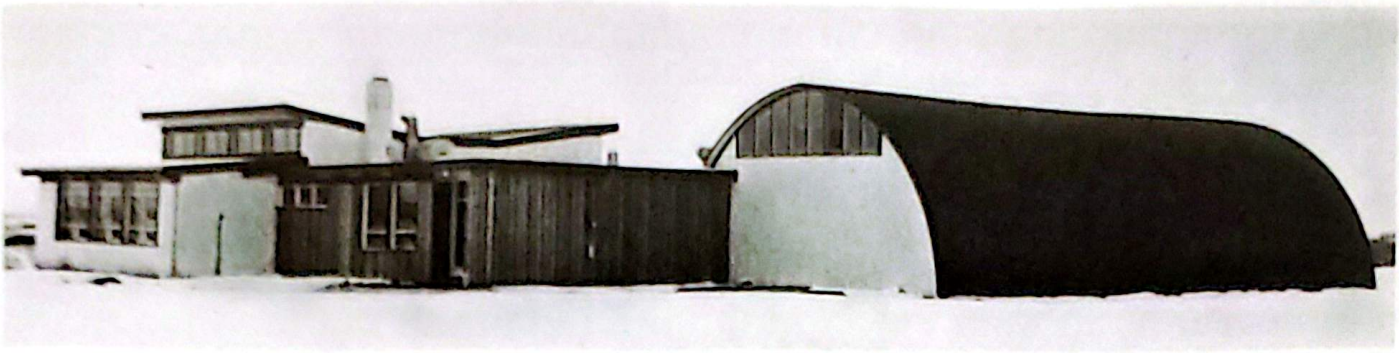
What has happened to those one-room country schools? Some, like Nazir and Ranock have been sold and moved away or are used for grain storage; others like Luzan have been turned into community halls and are serving the community even to this day.

(Mertie Werenka Beatty teaches in an Elementary School in Calgary. She is completing her Master's Degree in Education Curriculum and Instruction.)



The St. Laurent Separate School built in 1954.

THE ST. LAURENT SEPARATE SCHOOL

by Lucia Robinson

When Father Bouchard became parish priest, he began a campaign to open a separate school in Brosseau. It was his dream to settle Catholic families in the district, recruiting them mostly from Quebec.

The firm of Diamond, Dupuis, Desautels and Dunn of Edmonton were commissioned to design the school. It would consist of two classrooms, an auditorium, an office, a kitchenette and a dinette as well as the usual utilities. The parish contracted to build this school under the direction of Lloyd Cartier of St. Paul with labor donated by the parishioners of the St. Laurent parishes of Brosseau and Duvernay, and some hired tradesmen.

The blessing by Msgr. Philippe Lussier accompanied by Rev. Bouchard.

Leo Marceau and Barney Weir cutting the ribbon at the blessing of the school.

Finally in the fall of 1954 the school had its official opening. After a liturgical ceremony in the church, the people and guests proceeded across the road where Rev. Msgr. Philippe Lussier blessed the school. A sumptuous banquet was served by the ladies to 200 people, followed with speeches by the dignitaries. A musical program under the direction of Mrs. Roxanne Gamache of St. Paul completed the festivities.

Sister Saint Lionel, Assumption sister from St. Paul and a native of Lafond was the first principal and teacher of grades 5-9. Sister Sainte Imelda had grades 1-4. Sister Elize-de-Jesus was the cook and they lived in the school because there was no residence available to them at that time. It was to be built in 1959.

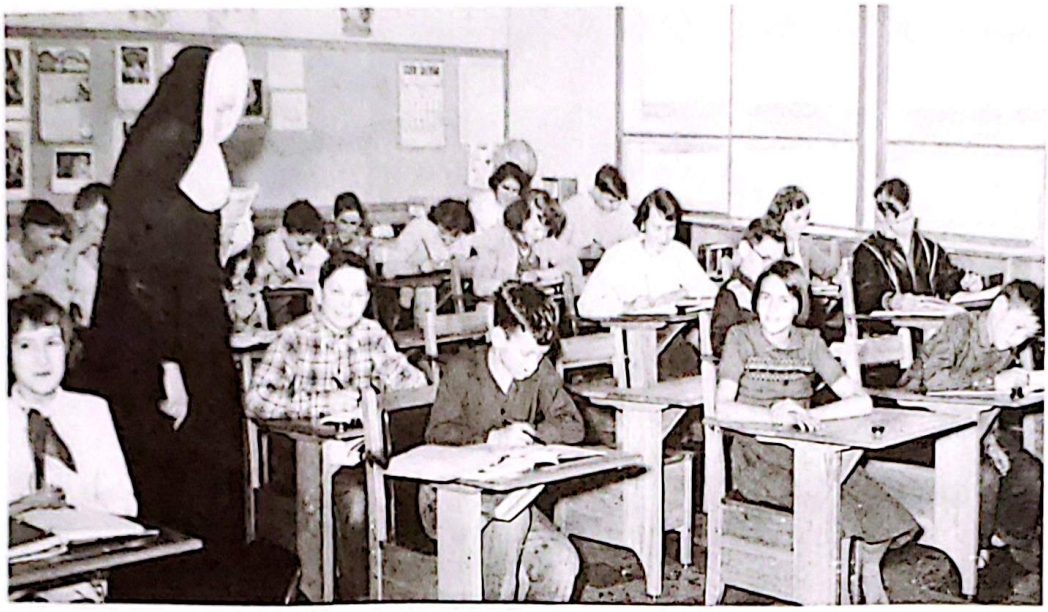
The first grade nine graduates in 1965 were: Priscilla Smith, Carmen Oberkisch, Therese Marceau, Jacques Boucher, Ronald Coutu, Michael Chudyk, Arthur Emes and Fernand Ouellette.

In the ensuing years the grade 9 students would be bussed to Lafond High School. When it was closed in 1968 these graduates went either to Two Hills High School or to St. Paul Regional School.

The last classes to be taught in the St. Laurent School were taught in 1969-1970. The school was closing its doors. The enrolment had dwindled, the equipment was inadequate and finances were insufficient to keep it going. The last teachers were: Barney O'Hare, principal and grades 4-6, George Mackenzie grades 7-9, Mrs. Florence Mailloux grades 1-3.

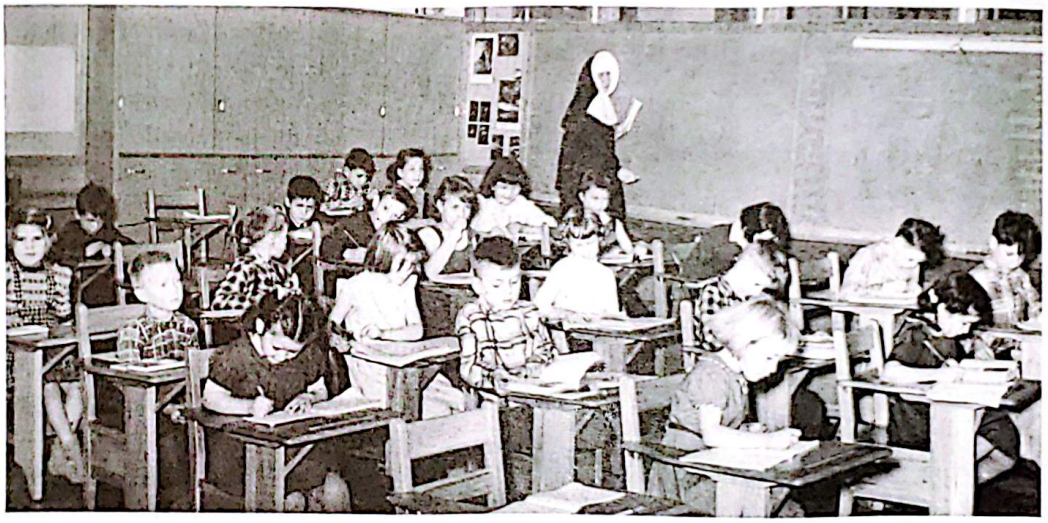
The students were then transferred to Two Hills and the school building was turned over to become the Brosseau Community Hall. The sister's residence (convent) was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Didier, former residents, 1979 who plan to retire here.

The first trustees: for Duvernay — Rene Robinson, Norman Mailloux, Bernard Weir, secretary — Joseph A. Brosseau; for Brosseau — Leo Marceau, John Oberkisch, Hector Coutu.



Sister Lionel's Class, grades 5-9, front to back starting at left, Gloria Lavallee, Richard Marceau, Eugene Chudyk, Marie Marthe Boulianne, Jacques Boucher, Maurice Lavallee, Roland Lavallee, Suzanne Bouliane, Susan Oberkisch, Vitaline Ouellette, Arthur Emes, Carmen Oberkisch, Mike Chudyk.

Sister Imelda's class, Grades 1-4, front to back starting at left, Barbara Robinson, John Oberkisch, Paulette Coutu, Gary Mailloux, Liliane Coutu, Imine Emes, Magella Boulianne, Rosaline Brosseau, Ned McLean, Diane Lavallee, Jo Anne Lacrosse, Michael Emes, Robert Robinson, Reginald Lavallee, Ubald Ouellette, ___, Bibiane Ouellette, Marguerite Brosseau, Albina Lacrosse, Roger Marceau.



Dominican Sisters teaching in Brosseau in 1960. Sister Jean dé l'Eucharistie on left, Sister Jeanne d'Aza center.

The choir directed by Mrs. Roxanne Gamache. Her husband, Daniel, was a former resident.

Mr. B. O'Hare and Mrs. Florence Mailloux with grades 1-6; front row — Denise Coutu, Angela Mackenzie, Yvonne Coutu, Francis Butcher, Doris Marsh, Jennelle Duperron, Yolande Bachelet, Ann Mackenzie; 2nd row — Mr. B. O'Hare, Robert Marsh, Norman Theroux, Richard Robinson, Daniel Butcher, Maurice Brosseau, Albert Theroux, Rene Bachelet, Mrs. Mailloux; back row — Raymond Bachelet, Howard Duperron, Noel Mackenzie, Gerald Bachelet, David Brosseau, Jules Duperron, Henry Marsh, Bernard Weir.

Mr. B. O'Hare and Mr. George Mackenzie with grades 7-9, front row — Jocelyn Brosseau, Louise Bachelet, Margaret Marsh, Leslie Butcher; 2nd row — Mr. O'Hare, Tony Mackenzie, Larry Setera, Roland Coutu, Philip Mackenzie, Adrien Coutu, Mr. Mackenzie; back row — Clifford Weir, Dennis Mailloux, Gilbert Weir, Roger Brosseau, Martin Lavallee, Allen Marsh, Basil Mackenzie.

The Alberta Gazette

Vol. 6 Published by Authority No. 3

EDMONTON, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1910.

Edmonton, Tuesday, February 8, 1910.

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with the provisions of The School Ordinance in that behalf, that, by order of the Minister of Education, the following lands, namely: Sections 7, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 27 and 28, the west halves of Sections 11, 14, 23 and 26, and those portions of Sections 29, 30, 32, 33 and 34 and that portion of the west half of Section 35 lying south of the Saskatchewan River in Township 55 Range 11 west of the Fourth Meridian, have been erected into a School District under the name of The Luzan School District No. 2113 of the Province of Alberta.

Senior Trustee: Stephen Orlecki, Duvernay.

D. S. MacKenzie,
Deputy Minister of Education

Edmonton, Saturday, March 25, 1911.

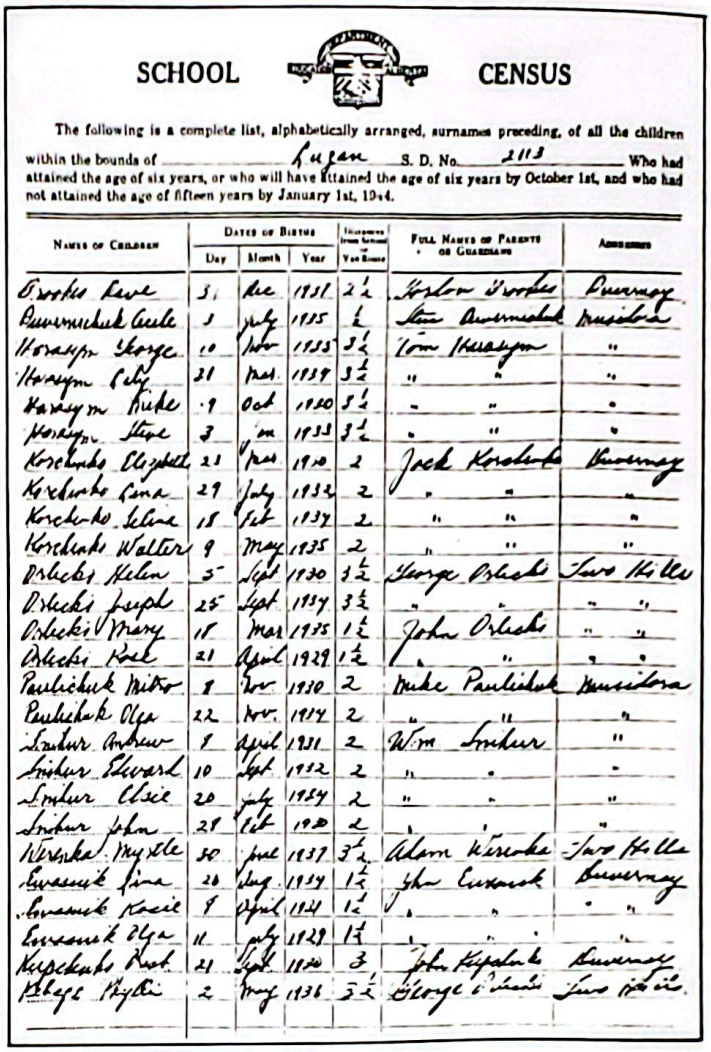
Notice is hereby given, in accordance with the provisions of The School Ordinance in that behalf, that, by order of the Minister of Education, the boundaries of The Luzan School District No. 2113 of the Province of Alberta have been altered by taking therefrom the following lands, namely: The south halves of Sections 7 and 8 in Township 55 Range 11 west of the Fourth Meridian; and that from and after the date hereof the said district shall comprise the following lands, namely: The north halves of Sections 7 and 8, Sections 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 27 and 28, the west halves of Sections 11, 14, 23 and 26, and those portions of Sections 29, 30, 32, 33 and 34, and that portion of the west half of Section 35 lying south of the Saskatchewan River in Township 55 Range 11 west of the Fourth Meridian.

D. S. MacKenzie,
Deputy Minister of Education.

LUZAN SCHOOL DISTRICT #2113

by Hector Coutu

JANUARY 10, 1910; — the first meeting to organize a School District was held. The elected trustees were Adelard Bechard, Ivan Kupchanko and Stephen Orlecki, Chairman. F.X. Boileau was hired as Secretary Treasurer. His salary was set at $48.00 a year. It was decided to purchase two acres of land on the N.W. corner of section 16-55-11-W4th, from Ewan Ponich to build a school. Steve Orlecki suggested that the School would be called Luzan in memory of his home town in Bukowiva and it was unanimously accepted by all. It was also decided to put out tenders to build a 23 by 31 school and 12 by 16 school house. At a later meeting two tenders were received. One for $1,100.00 from Elzear Moisin and another from Arthur Mercier. Mr. Moisin was the successful bidder. The understanding was that he had to hire local taxpayers and have the contract completed by December 1, 1910.



SCHOOL CENSUS

The following is a complete list, alphabetically arranged, surnames preceding, of all the children within the bounds of Luzan S. D. No. 2113 Who had attained the age of six years, or who will have attained the age of six years by October 1st, and who had not attained the age of fifteen years by January 1st, 1914.

Names of Children	Dates of Births: Day	Month	Year	Attendance during last year or Years in School	Full Names of Parents or Guardians	Address
Brooks Irene	5	Dec	1931	2½	Gordon Brooks	Duvernay
Bumenchuk Cecile	1	July	1935	½	Steve Bumenchuk	Musidora
Harasym George	10	Nov	1933	3½	Tom Harasym	"
Harasym Polly	31	Mar	1939	3½	" "	"
Harasym Rube	9	Oct	1930	3½	" "	"
Harasym Steve	3	Jan	1933	3½	" "	"
Kerchenko Elizabeth	23	Mar	1910	2	Jack Kerchenko	Duvernay
Kerchenko Lena	29	July	1932	2	" "	"
Kerchenko Selina	18	Feb	1934	2	" "	"
Kerchenko Walter	9	May	1935	2	" "	"
Orlecki Helen	5	Sept	1930	3½	George Orlecki	Two Hills
Orlecki Joseph	25	Sept	1934	3½	" "	" "
Orlecki Mary	18	Mar	1935	1½	John Orlecki	" "
Orlecki Rose	21	April	1929	1½	" "	" "
Pavlichuk Mitro	8	Nov	1930	2	Mike Pavlichuk	Musidora
Pavlichuk Olga	22	Nov	1914	2	" "	"
Smihur Andrew	1	April	1931	2	Wm Smihur	"
Smihur Edward	10	Sept	1932	2	" "	"
Smihur Elsie	20	July	1924	2	" "	"
Smihur John	28	Feb	1930	2	" "	"
Werska Myrtle	30	June	1937	3½	Adam Werska	Two Hills
Zwarnik Lena	26	Aug	1934	1½	John Zwarnik	Duvernay
Zwarnik Rosie	8	April	1924	1½	" "	" "
Zwarnik Olga	11	July	1929	1½	" "	" "
Kupchenko Rose	21	Sept	1930	3	John Kupchenko	Duvernay
Blaga Phyllis	2	May	1936	3½	George Blaga	Two Hills

JANUARY 16, 1911; — the same board was elected to manage the new school district for 1911. Mike Basaraba was hired to buy $229.00 worth of new desks and furniture for the school and was to be paid $10.00 for his services when he would have them delivered safely in the new school house. The mill rate was set at 4½¢ an acre. Richard Smith was hired as teacher at $60.00 a month.

FEBRUARY 24, 1912; — the trustees were Iwan Chibry, P. Harasym and Steve Orlescki was Chairman. Richard Smith was re-hired to teach at $60.00 a month.

JANUARY 20, 1913; — the trustees were M. Dowhaniuk, Iwan Chibry and P. Harasym was Chairman. S. Hrynyk was hired as Secretary Treasurer. Richard Smith was re-hired at the same wage only he had to do the janitor work at the school for free house rent. Mill rate was increased to 10¢ per acre.

JANUARY 15, 1914; — the trustees were Metro Lakusta, P.Harasym and M. Dowhaniuk, Chairman. Harry Tomkins was hired as teacher at $65.00 a month. W.H. Olinski was hired as janitor for $1.50 a month. The teacher had to pay $5.00 a month house rent.

JANUARY 15, 1915; — the trustees were E. Antoniuk, M. Dowhaniuk and M. Lakusta, Chairman. S. Hrynyk was hired as Secretary Treasurer for $40.00 a year. On June 1st Mr. Middleton was hired to teach for 5 months at $65.00 a month and had to do the janitor work for the rent of the school house.

Luzan school #2113. Today it is used as a parish hall. (1980)

JANUARY 31, 1916; — the trustees were Mike Paulichuk, M. Lakusta and E. Antoniuk, Chairman. S. Hrynyk, Secretary at $40.00 a year. Re-hired the same teacher as in 1915. School started on April 17th. Mill rate set at 15¢ per acre. Teacher quit on September 12th.

JANUARY 13, 1917; — the trustees were E. Antoniuk, M. Paulichuk and Metro Chrapko, Chairman. D.C. Prokopik was hired as Secretary at a salary of $40.00 a year. Teacher was hired but his name is not mentioned.

JANUARY 12, 1918; — the trustees were the same as the previous year. Wasyl Holynski was Secretary.

FEBRUARY 14, 1919; — the trustees were M. Chrapko, Steve Orleski and M. Dowhaniuk, Chairman. Dmytro Lakusta, Secretary at $50.00 a year. Mill rate increased to 10¢ per acre. Demitruis Kostocki was hired as teacher at $99.00 a month. He had to do the janitor work for free rent of house.

JANUARY 13, 1920; — the trustees were Ivan Kupchanko, S. Orlecki and M. Dowhaniuk, Chairman. Lakusta re-hired as Secretary at $60.00 a year. Mill rate increased to 16¢ per acre. W.H. Saunders was hired as teacher for 6 months at $90.00 a month.

JANUARY 15, 1921; — the trustees were P. Harasym, M. Dowhaniuk and Maxim Dowhaniuk, Chairman. Metro Lakusta, Secretary for $50.00 a year. Ernest Abbot was hired as teacher for $100.00 a month. He resigned on June 30th. M. Thilbrick hired to finish the year.

JANUARY 13, 1922; — the trustees were John Chiler, E. Antoniuk and Gordon Brooks, Chairman. Mill rate was increased to 14 mills per acre. E.C. Menzies was hired to teach at $92.50 a month. Mr. Menzies was asked to resign, because he would not open the school on time and would let the children out early. On September 22nd Mr. L. Kolba was hired. On November 22nd the inspector dismissed the teacher and Mr. J.M. Strachon was hired to complete the school term.

JANUARY 15, 1923; — the trustees were P. Harasym, E. Antoniuk and M. Paulichuk, Chairman. D. Lakusta was hired as Secretary for $45.00 a year. Peter Kolaski was hired as teacher for $83.33 a month.

JANUARY 24, 1924; — the trustees were M. Dowhaniuk, M. Paulichuk and J. Orfino, Chairman. Marguerite Claique was hired as teacher for $1075.00 a year.

JANUARY 11, 1925; — the trustees were Jack Korchenko, E. Antoniuk and M. Paulichuk, Chairman. D. Lakusta was hired as Secretary for $42.50 a year.

JANUARY 13, 1926; — the trustees were J. Korchenko, E. Antoniuk and M. Paulichuk, Chairman. Taxes were increased to 25¢ per acre.

JANUARY 25, 1927; — the trustees were J. Kupchenko, A.P. Skariko and M. Paulichuk, Chairman. Mill rate increased to 30¢ per acre.

JANUARY 17, 1928; — the trustees were I. Kupchenko, M. Pawlichuck and E. Antoniuk, Chairman. Contract was given out to J.A. Elliott to build an extra classroom on to the school at a contract price of $750.00 for his labour. Miss E. McPherson was hired to teach at $1000.00 a year.

JANUARY 12, 1929; — the trustees were I. Kupchenko, E. Antoniuk and M. Paulichuk, Chairman. Mill rate increased to 40¢ per acre. Hired Miss A. Krett as teacher for salary of $1100.00 a year and Miss J. Semaka the second teacher for $1000.00 a year.

JANUARY 11, 1930; — the trustees were the same as the previous year. Mill rate decreased to 25¢ per acre. Miss Semako was re-hired and Miss J. Lazaruk was hired to replace Miss Krett.

JANUARY 10, 1931; — the trustees were P. Harasym, M. Paulichuk and I. Kupchenko, Chairman. The teachers for the year were Mr. W. Kutt and Mr. R. Swarich at $840.00 a year.

JANUARY 16, 1932; — the trustees were Steve Divernychuk, George Orlecki and P. Harasym, Chairman. D. Lakusta was hired as Secretary for $30.00 a year. The same teachers were re-hired at the same wages as the previous year.

JANUARY 21. 1933; — the trustees were S. Divernichuk, P. Harasym and Arion Towpich, Chairman. W. Kutt was re-hired as teacher for $750.00 a year and Elias Taschuk for $600.00.

JANUARY 13, 1934; — the trustees were A. Towpich, S. Divernychuck and Mike Chrapko, Chairman. Mike Paulichuk was hired as Secretary for $7.50 a year.

JANUARY 5, 1935; — the trustees were W. Harasym, John Ewasiuk and D. Lakusta, Chairman. Mac. Paulichuk, Secretary at $15.00 a year.

JANUARY 4, 1936; — the same board was elected to run the school business for 1936. Also the same teachers were re-hired.

JANUARY 16, 1937; — the same board was re-elected to run the school affairs for the coming year.

1938 was the last year the local board operated the Luzan school operation.

The old two room Moose school built in 1920.

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MOOSE #3590

by Hector Coutu

On october 9, 1920 a special meeting was called to see if everybody was in favor of building a school in the area. J. Seminowich was elected to write to the Department of Education to get further informtion and inquire as to the possibility of getting a $3000.00 loan to buy land and build a suitable building.

JANUARY 20, 1921; — the first board of trustees were W. Drolo, H. Olynik and G. Shepanski, J. Seminowich was elected first Secretary Treasurer. It was decided to go ahead with the construction of a school and have it completed by the end of the year.

JANUARY 16, 1922; — the trustees were E. Lakusta, W. Drolo and H. Olynik, Chairman. Mr. Wm. Cutsungavich was hired as teacher.

JANUARY 23, 1923; — the trustees were G. Shepanski, W. Zadimirsky and Jacob Olynik, Chairman. J. Seminowch was hired as Secretary Treasurer. Mr. W. Cutsungavich was hired as teacher for $700.00 a year.

JANUARY 21, 1924; — the trustees were N. Kuchuran, P. Woloschuk and G. Shepanski, Chairman. The teacher Cutsungavich resigned in April, G. Mosher finished the term till the end of June. On the first of September N.W. Svekla was hired to teach for the coming school term.

JANUARY 20, 1925; — the trustees were the same as the previous year. Jacob Olynik was Secretary. Mr. W. Lowery was hired as teacher for $950.00 a year. He was replaced in May by C.H. McCleary. On the first of September John Wayewilka was hired as teacher for $5.50 a day.

JANUARY 16, 1926; — the same board was re-elected for the coming year. John Wayewilka was replaced by C. Thomas and he was later replaced by Steve Motez.

JANUARY 27, 1927; — the trustees were P. Woloschuck, G. Shepanski and G. Harkman, Chairman. Wm. Cousins was hired to teach at $1000.00 a year.

JANUARY 17, 1928; — the trustees were N. Lapaschuk, P. Woloschuck and G. Shepanski, Chairman. At that meeting it was decided to build an extra class room and tenders to be put out as soon as possible, so the school can be in use by September 1st. At a later meeting Mr. Semenowich got the contract to build the addition for a salary of $250.00. Mr. & Mrs. A. Cameron were hired as teachers for $5.00 a day each.

JANUARY 2, 1929; — the trustees were G.K. Lakusta, N. Lapashchuk and G. Hackman. G. Shepanski was Secretary. Mr. & Mrs. F. Dent were hired to teach for $5.00 a day each. Mill rate was increased to 18¢ per acre.

JANUARY 1930; — the trustees were Steve Olynik, N. Lapaschuk and G. Lakusta, Chairman. In March the complete board resigned. An election was called and G. Burlo, G. Harasen and G. Hackman were the new trustees. The mill rate was increased to 40¢ per acre.

JANUARY 10, 1931; — the same trustees were elected for the coming year. Mrs. Rosie Pawliuk and Miss Mary Palmers was hired as teachers at $4.20 a day each.

JANUARY 16, 1932; — the trustees were G. Lakusta, E. Hlady and G. Hackman, Chairman. Mr. G. Shepanski was hired as secretary for $25.00 a year.

JANUARY 10, 1933; — the trustees were G. Lakusta, G. Hackman and G. Burlo, Chairman. Mr. G. Harasen was hired as Secretary for $17.00 a year and had to pay all stamps, envelopes and expenses out of his salary.

JANUARY 11, 1934; — the trustees were G. Burlo, G. Lakusta and George Toma. G. Harasen was Secretary for $10.00 a year. The same two teachers were hired for $4.50 a day each.

JANUARY 21, 1935; — the trustees were G. Lakusta, Jack Yakemchuk and Metro Shepanski, Chairman. M. Sidor was hired as Secretary for $15.00 a year. Martha Makowichuk and Mary Palmers were hired as teachers at $700.00 a month.

JANUARY 13, 1936; — the trustees were G. Hackman, J. Yakimchuk and M. Shepanski, Chairman. Mr. Chernawski and Mike Korpan were hired as teachers for $700.00 each.

JANUARY 15, 1937; the trustees were John Hlewka, G. Hackman and M. Shepanski, Chairman. The same teachers and Secretary were re-hired for 1937.

JANUARY 22, 1938; — the trustees were G. Lakusta, J. Hlewka and G. Hackman, Chairman. The ratepayers and school board trustees protested against being swallowed up by the large Two Hills School Division but as we all know their disagreement was lost like all the other small schools in the area.

NIZIR SCHOOL DISTRICT #2179

by Hector Coutu

At a special meeting held on September 5, 1914 the trustees elected to the school board were Fedor Ilkuf, Onufry Rudkowski and Elko Grekul, Chairman. Maxim Tomyn was hired as Secretary Treasurer at $20.00 a year.

JANUARY 15, 1915; — the same board was re-elected for the coming year.

JANUARY 14, 1916; — the trustees were Anton Tymchyshyn, O. Rudkowski and Elko Grekul, Chairman. D.C. Prokopik was hired as Secretary Teasurer for $25.00 a year.

JANUARY 12, 1917; — the trustees were Wasyl Dochuk, Nick Mandrusiak and A. Tymchyshyn, Chairman. Mill rate was set at 7½¢ per acre. On June 11th the teacher was dismissed and a motion was made to get a replacement as soon as possible. (Teacher's name was not mentioned).

JANUARY 12, 1918; — the same board was re-elected for the coming year.

JANUARY 20, 1919; — the trustees were Elko Grekul, W. Dochuk and D.M. Odynski, Chairman. N. Chrapko was hired as Secretary Treasurer for $35.00 a year.

JANUARY 24, 1920; — the trustees were F. Elkow, A. Elkow and D.M. Odynsky, Chairman. Mill rate increased to 10¢ per acre.

JANUARY 13, 1921; — the trustees were A. Towpick, F. Elkow and D.M. Odynsky, Chairman. That they put up a flag pole.

JANUARY 5, 1922; — the trustees were the same as the previous year.

JANUARY 12, 1923; — the trustees were D. Odynsky, A. Towpich and W. Mandrusiak, Chairman. Mr. Tivey was hired as teacher starting September first.

JANUARY 12, 1924; — the trustees were W. Mandrusiak, D. Odynsky and A. Tymchyshyn, Chairman. A. Babiuk was hired as teacher for $1100.00 a year.

JANUARY 15, 1925; — the trustees were W. Pankiw, A. Tymchyshyn and D. Odynsky, Chairman. Mill rate was increased to 11¢ per acre.

JANUARY 11, 1926; — the trustees were E. Grekul, A. Tymchyshyn and W. Pankiw, Chairman.

JANUARY 11, 1927; — the trustees were E. Grekul, W. Pankiw and D.M. Odynsky, Chairman. Miss Mary Hamar was hired as teacher for the school term beginning September first.

JANUARY 16, 1928; — the trustees were N. Mandrusiak, A. Tymchyshyn and Steve Orleski, Chairman. N. Chomik was hired as Secretary Treasurer for $33.00 a year.

JANUARY 12, 1929; — the same board was re-elected for the coming year. John Taschuck was hired as teacher for $1100.00 a year.

JANUARY 25, 1930; — the trustees were Nick Dochuk, N. Mandrusiak and Steve Orlecki, Chairman. Miss Soldan was hired as teacher for $1050.00 a year.

JANUARY 10, 1931; — the trustees were N. Dochuk, S. Orlecki and D.M. Odynski, Chairman. John was hired as Secretary Treasurer for $30.00 a year. Miss M. Soldan was re-hired at $950.00 a year.

JANUARY 9, 1932; — the trustees were Nick Chomik, Nick Dochuk and D. Odynsky, Chairman. Miss Soldan was re-hired at $850.00 a year.

JANUARY 13, 1933; — the trustees were Metro Eliuk, N. Chomik and M. Odynski, Chairman. Miss Mary Soldan was re-hired at $750.00 a year.

JANUARY 13, 1934; — the same board was re-elected for the coming year. Miss Anne Keryluk was hired to teach beginning September 1st.

JANUARY 5, 1935; — the trustees were Wm. Elkow, M. Eliuk and M. Odynski, Chairman. Miss Keryluk was re-hired for the coming school term.

JANUARY 4, 1936; — the trustees were Mike Zawadiuk, D. Odynski and W. Elkow, Chairman. Miss Keryluk was hired as teacher for $800.00 a year starting on September 1st. On November 16th Mr. Andrew Shandro was hired to finish the school year at $80.00 a month.

JANUARY 23, 1937; — the board was re-elected for the coming year. Mr. William Kutt was hired to teach at $800.00 a year.

JANUARY 5, 1938; — the same board was re-elected for the coming year. This was the last year that a board was elected by the local ratepayers to run the school business. Like the rest of the small schools Nizir School District was amalgamated with the larger Two Hills School Division #21.

NIZIR SCHOOL — 1925
Adam D. Babiuk, teacher

Nizir school children about 1926.

ASSESSMENT ROLL of the Nizir School District #2179 for the year 1936:

Name of Ratepayer	Address	Location of property Sec.	Tp.	Rge.	M	No. of Acres	Assessed Value	Mill Rate	Yearly Taxes
Dmytro F. Mandrusiak	Musidora	N.W. 29	54	11	4	160	$ 830.00	7	$ 5.81
Dmytro F. Mandrusiak	Musidora	N.W. 30	54	11	4	158	960.00	7	6.72
Dmytro F. Mandrusiak	Musidora	S.W. 30	54	11	4	30.30	150.00	7	1.05
Mrs. Casy Pankow	Musidora	N.E. 30	54	11	4	154.90	520.00	7	3.64
Wasyl Zachariuk	Musidora	S.E. 30	54	11	4	77.58	310.00	7	2.17
Nickifor Elkow	Musidora	N.E. 31	54	11	4	141.68	990.00	7	6.93
Wm. F. Elkow	Musidora	S.W. 31	54	11	4	157	1200.00	7	8.40
Fred Elkow	Musidora	N.W. 31	54	11	4	147	1430.00	7	10.01
Anton Tymchyshyn	Musidora	S.E. 31	54	11	4	157	1010.00	7	7.07
Anton Tymchyshyn	Musidora	S.W. 32	54	11	4	160	880.00	7	6.16
Fred Bohaychiuk	Musidora	N.W. 32	54	11	4	149	880.00	7	6.16
Wasyl Mandrusiak	Musidora	N.W. 4	55	11	4	161	730.00	7	5.11
Nikifor Elkow	Musidora	S.W. 5	55	11	4	148.55	790.00	7	5.53
John Mandrusiak	Musidora	N.E. 5	55	11	4	158.56	600.00	7	4.20
John Mandrusiak	Musidora	S.W. 5	55	11	4	131	820.00	7	5.74
Dmytro Lukaniuk	Musidora	N.W. 5	55	11	4	160	740.00	7	5.18
W. Harasiwich	Musidora	N.E. 6	55	11	4	160	990.00	7	6.93
Edmonton Credit	Edmonton	N.W. 6	55	11	4	158	1500.00	7	10.50
Wm. Nikiforiuk	Edmonton	S.E. 6	55	11	4	136	1070.00	7	7.49
Dmytro Eliuk	Edmonton	S.W. 6	55	11	4	149	1280.00	7	8.96
Z. St. Hilaire	Duvernay	S.W. 7	55	11	4	159	1490.00	7	10.40
Steve Orleski	Two Hills	N.W. 7	55	11	4	161	1650.00	7	11.5
Mrs. Annie Zaitz	Musidora	E½S.E. 7	55	11	4	79	620.00	7	4.54
Dan Towpich	Kaleland	W½S.E. 7	55	11	4	79	620.00	7	4.54
Dan Towpich	Kaleland	S.W. 8	55	11	4	160	1010.00	7	7.07
Hudson Bay Co.	Winnipeg	S.E. 8	55	11	4	160	810.00	7	5.67
Fred Bohaychiuk	Musidora	W½N.E. 25	54	12	4	76	550.00	7	3.89
Fred Bohaychiuk	Musidora	N.W. 25	54	12	4	157	1320.00	7	9.24
Fred Bohaychiuk	Musidora	S.E. 25	54	12	4	42	180.00	7	1.26
Mr. M. Delawsky	Musidora	S.W. 25	54	12	4	25	210.00	7	1.47
Fred Elkow	Musidora	E½N.E. 25	54	12	4	77	570.00	7	3.99
Nick Chrapko	Steveston B.C.	N.E. 26	54	12	4	144	1330.00	7	9.31
H. Nikiforiuk	Two Hills	N.W. 26	54	12	4	132	990.00	7	6.93
R.C. Fife	Two Hills	N.E. 27	54	12	4	145	1020.00	7	7.14
Geo. Nikiforuk	Two Hills	S.E. 34	54	12	4	158	1270.00	7	8.89
Dmytro Odynski	Two Hills	N.E. 34	54	12	4	148	1070.00	7	7.49

Name of Ratepayer	Address	Location of property Sec.	Tp.	Rge.	M	No. of Acres	Assessed Value	Mill Rate	Yearly Taxes
Dmytro Odynski	Two Hills	N.W. 35	54	12	4	148	1180.00	7	8.26
Dmytro Odynski	Two Hills	S.W. 35	54	12	4	158	1340.00	7	9.38
Nick Chrako	Steveston B.C.	S.E. 35	54	12	4	158	1410.00	7	9.87
Nick Chomik	Two Hills	N.E. 35	54	12	4	147	990.00	7	6.93
Alex Elkow	Two Hills	N.E. 36	54	12	4	143	1400.00	7	9.80
M. Mandrusiak	Two Hills	N.W. 36	54	12	4	144	1310.00	7	9.17
Mrs. M.W. Wagner	Spokane Wash.	S.W. 36	54	12	4	148	870.00	7	6.09
Fred Elkow	Musidora	S.E. 36	54	12	4	148	880.00	7	6.16
Nick Dochuk	Two Hills	N.W. 1	55	12	4	160	1990.00	7	13.93
M. Zawadiuk	Two Hills	S.E. 1	55	12	4	146	1770.00	7	12.39
Nick Chomik	Two Hills	N.E. 1	55	12	4	157	1870.00	7	13.09
Nick Chomik	Two Hills	S.E. 1	55	12	4	149	2010.00	7	14.07
Wasyl Dochuk	Two Hills	N.E. 2	55	12	4	144	1210.00	7	8.47
F. & L. Newsman	Edmonton	N.W. 2	55	12	4	160	910.00	7	6.37
Elko Grekul	Two Hills	S.E. 2	55	12	4	149	1480.00	7	10.36
Elko Grekul	Two Hills	S.W. 2	55	12	4	149	790.00	7	5.53
Alex Elkow	Two Hills	N.E. 11	55	12	4	160	1790.00	7	12.53
Mike Eglinski	Two Hills	N.W. 11	55	12	4	160	1870.00	7	13.09
Mike Eglinski	Two Hills	S.W. 11	55	12	4	160	1530.00	7	10.71
Hector Poirier	Two Hills	N.E. 12	55	12	4	158	1840.00	7	12.88
George Orleski	Two Hills	N.W. 12	55	12	4	160	1900.00	7	13.30
Wasyl Elkow	Two Hills	S.E. 12	55	12	4	160	1650.00	7	11.55
Z. St. Hilaire	Duvernay	S.W. 12	55	12	4	160	1790.00	7	12.53

ISPAS SCHOOL DISTRICT #2756

by Hector Coutu

On August 19, 1912 the settlers around the area decided to apply to the Department of Education for permission to build a school on the S.E.¼ of section 4-57-13-W4th. The first trustees were H. Busiak, Metro Pawluk and H. Ewanchuk, Chairman.

JANUARY 11, 1913; — the same trustees were re-elected. Wm. Hawreliak was hired as Secretary Treasurer. Mr. Samuel Roth was hired as contractor to build the school, teacher's residence and two outside toilets for $1400.00. He had to furnish all the material and it had to be first grade material throughout.

JANUARY 14, 1914; — the trustees were Iwan Hawaleschka, George Kupchanko and N. Pawluk, Chairman. July 14 Alfred Peart was hired as teacher for $63.00 a month. On August 5th he was replaced by Mr. Klymok at the same wage.

JANUARY 11, 1915; — the trustees were T. Yesup, Nick Holowaschuk and Teodor Stefuik, Chairman. Mill rate was set at 9¢ per acre. Mr. J.W. Gabon was hired to teach for four months.

JANUARY 27, 1916; — the trustees were Metro Hladey, Philip Menzak and John Holowachuk, Chairman. Eli Huculak was hired as Secretary Treasurer at $40.00 a year.

JANUARY 27, 1917; — the trustees were M. Hladey, J. Holowachuk and Nick Holowanchuk, Chairman. Nick Shalka was hired as Secretary at $50.00 a year. Teacher was hired for $65.00 a month (No name mentioned).

JANUARY 21, 1918; — the same board was re-elected for the coming year.

JANUARY 11, 1919; — the same board was re-elected for the coming year.

JANUARY 12, 1920; — the trustees were Metro Hladey, Mike Recholski and Filip Menzak, Chairman.

JANUARY 21, 1921; — the trustees were Alex Yusep, Metro Recholski and Filip Menzak, Chairman. Math Shalka was hired as Secretary for $50.00 a year.

JANUARY 13, 1922; — the same board was re-elected for the coming year.

JANUARY 15, 1923; — the trustees were John Olinek, Metro Hunchak and Mike Recholski, Chairman.

JANUARY 11, 1924; — the same trustees were re-elected for the coming year. Mr. Wm. Karbashewski was hired as Secretary Treasurer for $37.50 a year.

JANUARY 10, 1925; — the trustees were Wasyl Basaraba, Metro Hunchak and M. Recholski, Chairman. Teacher was hired for $1000.00 a year (No name mentioned).

JANUARY 12, 1926; — the trustees were George Deputot, Alex Yusep and Mike Recholski, Chairman. W.F. Hargrove was hired to teach at $1000.00 a year. The school classes opened on May 1st with 32 pupils in attendance.

JANUARY 12, 1927; — the trustees were John Michalchan, G. Deputot and Wasyl Basaraba, Chairman. G. Deputot was hired as Secretary Treasurer at $40.00 a year. Mr. Hargrove was re-hired as teacher and had 43 pupils to teach from grade 1 to 9 at $100.00 a month.

JANUARY 10, 1928; — the trustees were A. Fedorak, W. Basaraba and Harry Ewanchuk, Chairman. Mill rate increased to 16 mills per acre. Mr. Surbo was hired to teach at $1000.00 a year starting on September 1st.

JANUARY 12, 1929; — the trustees were H. Ewanchuk, A. Fedorak and D. Rocholski, Chairman. Mr. Kordowski was hired as teacher.

JANUARY 10, 1930; — the trustees were Fred Olynik, A. Fedorak and Rocholski, Chairman. Fred Olynik was hired as Secretary for $55.00 a year. Mr. S. Tkachuk was hired as teacher starting September 1st.

JANUARY 10, 1931; — the trustees were F. Olynik, M. Rocholski and W. Basaraba, Chairman. Mr. P. Stefurak was hired as Secretary for $25.00 a year. Mr. S. Tkachuk was re-hired as teacher at $850.00 a year.

JANUARY 9, 1932; — the trustees were W. Basaraba, M. Recholski and Nick Denis, Chairman. Mr. S. Tkachuk re-hired at $850.00 a year.

JANUARY 10, 1933; — the trustees were D. Budzak, Fred Olynik and W. Basaraba, Chairman. P. Stefurak hired as Secretary at $20.00 a year. Mr. Tkatchuk re-hired as teacher for $600.00 a year.

JANUARY 13, 1934; — the trusteees were B. Basaraba, G. Budzak and W. Basaraba, Chairman.

JANUARY 12, 1935; — the trustees were J. Olynik, G. Budzak and W. Basaraba, Chairman. George Kelba was hired as teacher. On July 18th the teacherage burnt down. Imperial Lumber of Hairy Hill got the contract to build a 18 by 24 house for $460.00, labour and material included. Mr. Kelba resigned and Miss Mary Skripnek was hired to complete the term at $70.00 a month.

FEBRUARY 1, 1936; — the trustees George Olynik, G. Budzak and Wm. Basaraba, Chairman. Mr. George Kelba was hired to teach starting September 1, 1936.

JANUARY 13, 1937; — the trustees were Alex Yusep, G. Budzak and J. Olynik, Chairman. Wm. Pawliuk was hired as Secretary for $25.00 a year.

JANUARY 12, 1938; — the same board was re-elected for the coming year. This was the last year a board was elected by the ratepayers of the Ispas School District. Like all the other small school district their affairs were from now on run by the Two Hills School Division #21.

Mamestic School #2534

MAMAESTIC SCHOOL #2534

by Hector Coutu

The first meeting held to form a school district was on August 28, 1911. Trustees elected were Mafty Sherstianka, John Lakusta and Peter Taschuk, Chairman. Edmond Brosseau Jr. was hired as Sec. Treasurer at $40.00 per year. It was decided to apply for permission to form the above school district.

On March 23, 1913, Steve Sherstianka replaced John Lakusta as trustee. The school board decided to buy 2 acres on the N.W. 33-55-11 from the C.P.R. for $25.00 per acre. They also decided to hire E. Moisin to build a 24 by 32 school and a 12 by 16 school house for a contract price of $1040.00 to be completed by June 1, 1912. Taxes were set at 7¢ per acre.

On June 30, 1913 F.J. Mortimore was hired as the first teacher for four months at $50.00 a year. Pete Taschuk dug a well for $30.00. W. Smith was hired as Sec. Treas.

JANUARY 9, 1914; — H. Hohol replaced Pete Taschuk as Chairman. P. Hutchinson was hired as Sec. Treas. for $30.00 a year. W. Remp started teaching on May 11, 1914. Taxes were increased to 10¢ per acre.

JANUARY 9, 1915; — Mafty Shertsianka, Wasil Jacura as trustees and John Pundick was elected Chairman. Dr. J.C. Hardy was Sec. Treas. On August 18th Charles Spark was hired as teacher for $250.00 till Christmas.

JANUARY 13, 1916; — Pete Taschuk replaced Mafty Sherstianka. Hired L.R. McFarline as teacher for $65.00 a month on July 12th. Mr. McFarlin quit so Sevirn Leblanc was hired till Christmas.

JANUARY 17, 1917; — the elected trustees were Steve Sherstianka, P. Taschuk and John Pundick, Chairman. April 25, 1917 Stan Aucoin hired as school teacher. On July 17th Mr. S.B. Mykytuk was hired to replace Mr. Aucoin and on Sept. 17th. Miss Beatrice McLean was hired to finish the year.

JANUARY 1918; — Pete Taschuk replaced John Pundick as Chairman. Dr. J. Hardy was hired as Secretary Treasurer. James Flechuck as teacher.

JANUARY 1919; — the trustees were P. Taschuk, A. Taschuk and Steve Sherstianka. Mr. J. Jones was hired as teacher at $65.00 per month.

JANUARY 1920; — the trustees were M. Sherstianka, A. Taschuk and P. Taschuk, Chairman. Dr. J. Hardy, Secretary Treasurer at $50.00 a year. Harriet Johnson was hired as teacher for 8 months at $100.00 a month.

J. Toderiuk, P. Taschuk and M. Sherstianka were elected as trustees for 1921. Mrs. Grace Wood was hired as teacher for $100.00 per month for 8 months.

In 1922 Nick Logozar. M. Sherstianka and Pete Taschuk were the trustees elected for the year. W.F. Cavanagh was hired to teach and was replaced by Hector Hardy. He was replaced by John Hughes on July 22nd his service to terminate on December 24th.

The class of Mamaestie School in 1936. Back row: Teacher, Mr. Mike Nicholaychuk, Rosie Mickailyk, Adam Babiuk, Annie Taschuk, Dorothy Bodnar, Mary Zawadiuk, Annie Zawadiuk, Mary Pundick, Peter Logozar, Mike Pundick; Front row: Metro Bereska, Olga Petruk, Anne Bereska, Nancy Bodnar, George Bodnar, Olga Logozar, Charlie Smith, Ann Logozar, Wm. Sherstanka.

The same trustees served in 1923, P. Taschuk was chairman. Mr. Hughes was re-hired as teacher at $105.00 a month, to start on March 15th till Christmas.

1924 Annual meeting, the new trustee elected was J. Pundick. P. Taschuk was elected Chairman. Fernando Lord Secretary Treasurer at $50.00 a year. Mr. Hughes was re-hired at $105.00 a month. Mill rate was raised to 20¢ per acre.

In 1925 the trustees were N. Logozar, J. Pundick and M. Sherstianka. Miss Haud was hired as teacher.

JANUARY 9, 1926; — the trustees were E. Babuik, N. Logozar and J. Jacura. Fernando Lord's secretary wages to be raised to $75.00 per year.

JANUARY 10, 1927; — the trustees were N. Logozar, E. Babiuk and J. Jacura, Chairman. H.C. Reynolds was hired to teach at $100.00 a month.

JANUARY 10, 1928; — trustees elected were J. Jacura, Nick Logozar and Nick Herhirichuk, Chairman. P.A. Gauthier was hired to teach for 10 months at a salary of $1000.00 a year. Millrate was raised to 25¢ per acre. On September 1st Mr. Gauthier was dismissed. Wm. McDonald was hired, he only stayed for two months. School was closed till March.

JANUARY 15, 1929; — the trustees were N. Oneschuk, M. Pundick and J. Jacura, Chairman. Mr. Gauthier was hired to finish the school term at $115.00 a month. That year Mr. Lord drowned. Mr. Gauthier finished the term as Secretary.

In 1930 the turstees were N. Logozar, Alex Taschuk and J. Jacura, Chairman. Frank Smith was hired as Secretary Treasurer for $60.00 a year. A.J. Styra was hired to teach at $1250.00 a year.

In 1931 the trustees were J. Jacura, J. Bodnar and J. Pundick, Chairman. Eugene Foisy was hired as secretary treasurer. Mr. A. Styra took a cut in wages and agreed to teach for $1000.00 a year.

In 1932 the trustees were A. Taschuk, J. Jacura and J. Pundick, Chairman. Wm. Kardowski was hired as teacher for $850.00 a year.

In 1933 the trustees were John Boyko, J. Pundick and Nick Logozar, Chairman, Wm. Cherniouski was hired to teach at $840.00 a year. Alex Sherstianka was hired as Secretary Treasurer for $35.00 a year. Mill rate was decreased to 20 mills per acre.

JANUARY 12, 1934; — the trustees were E. Babiuk, J. Boyko and Frank Smith, Chairman.

The trustees elected for 1935 were Metro Sherstianka, J. Boyko and F. Smith, Chairman. Mr. Cherniowski was hired for another year. The mill rate was decreased to 15.

The 1936 trustees were F. Smith, M. Shestianka and P. Taschuk, Chairman. Pete Sherstianka was hired to teach at $850.00 a year.

The 1937 trustees were Mike Pundick, Mike Mickailik and P. Taschuk, Chairman. Pete Sherstianka was re-hired to teach. Frank Smith was hired as Secretary Treasurer.

In 1938 the trustees were Mike Logozar, John Oneschuk and John Jacura, Chairman. The mill rate was raised to 18 per acre. Pete Sherstianka was re-hired to teach at $840.00 per year. In February 1938 the school was closed for 2 weeks due to an outbreak of scarlet fever. This was the last year that the district ratepayer elected their own board to run their school business. From then on it was run by the Two Hills School Division.

RANNOCK SCHOOL DISTRICT #4126

by Hector Coutu

AUGUST 3, 1922; — At a special meeting of the ratepayers of the district they unanimously agreed to apply to the Department of Education for permission to build a school. Mr. John Palmaruk, D. Arychuk and Wasyl Arychuck were elected trustees. Mr. Palmaruk was chosen Chairman. Mr. O. Lakusta was hired as Secretary Treasurer for $100.00 a year.

JANUARY 12, 1923; — the trustees were J. Palmaruk, D. Arychuk and W. Ripka, Chairman. On April 1923 construction started on the school and was completed within three months. The mill rate was set at 13¢ per acre.

The old Rannock School, moved to Adam Werenka's farm and used as a machine shop.

JANUARY 10, 1924; — the trustees were Harry Eliuk, J. Palmaruk and W. Ripka, Chairman. O. Lakusta was hired as Secretary for $40.00 a year. Mr. D. Goska was hired as the first teacher at $840.00 per year. In May Mr. Goska resigned and John Swarich was hired to complete the school term.

JANUARY 9, 1925; — the trustees were W. Ripka, J. Hryhowich and H. Iluik, Chairman. Mr. D. Goshka was re-hired for $1000.00 a year. Mill rate was set at 16¢ per acre. On July 4th Mrs. A.E. Knight was hired as teacher to replace Mr. Goshka.

JANUARY 11, 1926; — the trustees were J. Slywka, W. Arichuk and H. Iluik, Chairman. Mr. Styra was hired as teacher.

JANUARY 10, 1927; — the trustees were Wm. Ripka, J. Palmaruk and J. Danyluk, Chairman. Mr. P. Werenka was hired as secretary at a salary of $39.00 a year.

JANUARY 10, 1928; — the trustees were J. Gully, J. Danyluk and J. Palmaruk, Chairman.

JANUARY 18, 1929; — the trustees were H. Warren, J. Palmaruk and P. Sorochan, Chairman. Mill rate increased to 25¢ per acre.

JANUARY 10, 1930; — the trustees were P. Sorochan, J. Gully and J. Danyluk, Chairman. School to open February first the same teacher Mr. Styra to be employed.

JANUARY 13, 1931; — the trustees were N. Lazaruk, P. Sorochan and J. Danyluk, Chairman. John Rudkowsky was hired as secretary for $25.00 a year. Daniel Hammar was hired to teach at $70.00 a month.

JANUARY 12, 1932; — the trustees were N. Lazaruk, P. Sorochan and M. Arychuk, Chairman. Nick Logozar of Brosseau built a 14 by 30 barn for $30.00.

JANUARY 12, 1933; — the trustees were Mike Woloshyn, N. Lazaruk and M. Arychuk, Chairman.

JANUARY 17, 1934; — the trustees were Metro Kupchenko, Mr. Arychuk and M. Woloshyn, Chairman. John P. Buk was hired as teacher for $700.00 a year.

JANUARY 12, 1935; — the trustees were M. Kupchenko, M. Woloshyn and John Slywka, Chairman. John Buk was re-hired as teacher for $700.00 a year.

JANUARY 11, 1936; — the trustees were John Hynik, M. Kupchenko and J. Slywka, Chairman.

JANUARY 23, 1937; — the same trustees were re-elected on the board. Wm. Grasiuk was hired to teach at $700.00 a year.

JANUARY 22, 1938; — the trustees were M. Woloshyn, J. Hynik and J. Danyluk, Chairman. Wm. Grasiuk was re-hired as teacher for $700.00 a year.

This was the last year the school board was in operation, in fact all trace of the Rannock School District has vanished, because today the whole area is known as the Rannock community pasture.

TWO HILLS SCHOOL DISTRICT #1941

by Hector Coutu

On March 13, 1909 the residents of the area decided at a public meeting to apply to the Department of Education for permission to build a school on the S.E. corner of the S.E.¼ of section 6-55-12-W4th. The trustees elected were G.L. Smith, Peter Dowhaniuk and Dick Fife, Chairman. G.L. Smith was hired as the first Secretary Treasurer. After the approval from the Department of Education, at a meeting held on June 26, 1909 Mr. Elzear Moisin was awarded the contract to build the school for the sum of $260.00., which included two outside toilets.

JANUARY 15, 1910; — the trustees were G.L. Smith, P. Dowhaniuk and Ewan Mozar, Chairman. Mr. W.H. Miller was hired as teacher for $600.00 a year. Mill rate was set at 7½¢ per acre.

JANUARY 10, 1911; — the trustees were R.W. Simpson, G.L. Smith and E. Mozar, Chairman. G.L. Smith was re-hired as Secretary Treasurer for a salary of $25.00 a year.

JANUARY 15, 1912; — the trustees were Geo. Dron, W. Simpson and G.L. Smith, Chairman. R.W. Simpson was hired as secretary. The school was closed till 1916, due to lack of money to hire a teacher.

JANUARY 19, 1916; — the trustees were R.C. Fife, F. Fedoruk and P. Dowhaniuk, Chairman. Joe Bleakly was hired as secretary. The mill rate was increased to 8½¢ per acre.

JANUARY 22, 1917; — the trustees were R.C. Fife, P. Dowhaniuk and F. Fedoruk, Chairman.

JANUARY 21, 1918; — the trustees were R.C. Fife, W. Mazar and Nick Dowhaniuk, Chairman. Mr. Procopick was hired as secretary for $35.00 a year. It was decided at that meeting to look for a teacher to start on the 1st of April.

JANUARY 18, 1919; — the trustees were N. Dowhaniuk, R.C. Fife and Mike Rusnak, Chairman. M. Soldan was hired as Secretary at $45.00 a year. Mill rate was increased to 9¢ per acre. Teacher was hired to start teaching on April 1st (No name was mentioned).

Moving the old Two Hills country school #1941 to the Town of Two Hills to be used as the first United Church. (1930)

JANUARY 13, 1920; — the trustees were M. Rusnak, R.C. Fife and John Moroniuk, Chairman. Irene Gardiner was hired as teacher for $900.00 a year. In December Mr. Wittaker was hired at $90.00 a month.

JANUARY 13, 1921; — the same board was re-elected for the coming year. The mill rate was increased to 15¢ an acre. The same two teachers were re-hired and the school was re-opened on the first of March.

JANUARY 14, 1922; — the trustees were re-elected for the coming year. W.C.W. Wittaker was hired to teach starting on February 1st. Mr. J.K. Adams was hired to teach starting September 4th at $1080.00 a year.

JANUARY 11, 1924; — the same trustees were re-elected for 1924. The same teachers were re-hired for the school term to start on September 2nd.

JANUARY 14, 1925; — the trustees were Onufry Chrapko, N. Dowhaniuk and R. Fife, Chairman. Miss Mix was hired to teach from May the first at $100.00 a month.

JANUARY 12, 1926; — the trustees were Wm. Choban, R. Fife and Onufrey Chrapko, Chairman. Olive Adsett was hired to teach, starting on January 14th. On February 1st Mrs. Cowen was hired to teach at $100.00 a month.

JANUARY 14, 1927; — the trustees were the same as the previous year. In September Miss Katheleen Powell was hired to teach at $1000.00 a year.

JANUARY 12, 1928; — the trustees were Wm. Chrapko, Dick Skakun and N. Dowhaniuk, Chairman. Wm. Buk replaced Soldan as Secretary Treasurer. The mill rate was increased to 14 an acre. On June 2nd it was decided at a general meeting of the ratepayers and the residents of the town of Two Hills to build a 4 room school on the N.W. 32-54-12-W4th. The School Board rented the Union Church for $1.00 and O. Chrapko's Hall for $20.00 a month to be used as class rooms till the new school was completed. Mr. G. Hrapko was hired as teacher for $1200.00 a month. Wm. Buk was hired as Secretary Treasurer for $125.00 a year.

JANUARY 12, 1929; — the trustees were R.C. Fife, M. Dadynski and M.O. Chrapko, Chairman. W. Jellis was awarded to contract to build the new school for $20,850.00, to be completed before the end of the year.

JANUARY 11, 1930; — the trustees were C.F. Fife, O. Chrapko and J. Tkachuk, Chairman. Mr. J. Laughlin was hired as teacher for $1600.00 a year. Miss M. Sherstianka was hired to teach at $1100.00 a year.

JANUARY 12, 1931; — the trustees were C.F. Fife, Wm. Eliuk and J. Serna, Chairman. Mr. J. Laughlin was hired as principal at $1600.00 a year. Miss Powell, Mrs. McCutcheon, Miss M. Sherstianka were hired as teachers for $1000.00 a year. The Principal to teach grade 12.

JANUARY 13. 1932; — the trustees were John Serna, Wm. Eliuk and G. Skakun, Chairman. Alex Kostik was hired as janitor for $120.00 a month. The mill rate was increased to 20 mills for rural property and 36 mills for the town.

JANUARY 21, 1933; — the trustees were G. Skakun, P. Fedorchuk and Jacob Olynik, Chairman. The same teachers were re-hired at $840.00 a month. Mr. Laughlin was re-hired as principal for $1350.00 a year.

JANUARY 13, 1934; — the trustees were J. Olynik, G. Skakun and Mike Soldan, Chairman. Miss R. Forbes was hired to replace Miss Powell at a salary of $840.00 a year.

JANUARY 13, 1935; — the same trustees were re-elected for the coming year. Maxim Tomyn was hired as Secretary Treasurer for $120.00 a year. The teaching staff's wages were Mr. Laughlin Principal $1200.00, Miss Sherstlanka $750.00, Mrs. McCutcheon $750.00 and Miss Powell who returned to teach $750.00.

JANUARY 11, 1936; — the trustees were N. Dowhaniuk, G. Skakun and M. Soldan, Chairman. Mr. Laughlin was re-hired as principal at $1275.00 a year. Nick Myskiw was hired to teach at $825.00 a year. Miss Rhoda Forbes and Miss Helen Soldan were hired for $775.00 a year.

JANUARY 11, 1937; — the trustees were N. Dowhaniuk, G. Skakun and M. Soldan, Chairman. The same teaching staff were re-hired for the new school term.

JANUARY 15, 1938; — the trustees were Steve Yusko, N. Dowhaniuk and M. Soldan, Chairman. Stanley Clark was hired as principal. Nick Myskiw, Miss Rhoda Forbes and Miss Helen Soldan were hired as teachers, term ending June 31st. Contract was given out for an extra classroom to be completed by September first. On June 24th Mr. Clark was re-hired as principal for $1200.00 a year. Teacher hired for the new term starting September first were Rhoda Forbes for $840.00, Helen Soldan $950.00, Katie Odynski $840.00 and Miss Slevinsky for $870.00.

JANUARY 31, 1939; — the trustees elected were Nick Solowan, Steve Yusko and M. Soldan, Chairman. Agreement was signed with the Two Hills School Division #21 to amalgamate with them in the larger school division thus ending the Two Hills School District #1941 existance.

KIEW SCHOOL DISTRICT #1693 AND NEW KIEW COMMUNITY

by M.H. Tomyn

The history of the school district itself would not be complete without recalling briefly, the story of the settlement known at present as New Kiew Community. Early in the year 1900, a party of surveyors and their assistants arrived from Strathcona, which was then the nearest point connected by railway, to survey the district for settlement by thousands of land-hungry immigrants from Western Ukraine, people who were freedom-loving and could no longer bear the oppression of the semi-feudal system of the Austrian Empire and Polish land-lords.

At that time the district presented a picture quite unlike the one we are now familiar with. It was all covered with forests, dotted with numerous sloughs and chains of lakes connected by clear-water creeks, many of which thrived with a smaller variety of fish. There were no roads of any kind and the only traces of life were old buffalo paths and Indian trails crisscrossing the country.

The first settlers came in 1901. They were Ukrainians and a small percentage were Polish. Most of the settlers had arrived by 1902. In the summer of 1903 the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Parish was organized, and members immediately undertook the building of a small log chapel. Initially a part of this church was partitioned off for a classroom, but because of its small size it was never used. In the meantime the parents taught their children the Ukrainian language at home. Sometimes they sent their child to the Convent School conducted by the Sister Servants of Mary Immaculate at Beaver Lake, three miles east of Mundare.

The New Kiew School District No. 1693 was organized in 1908. The preliminary meeting was held at the home of Pete Steblyk, where the first school board was elected. The first trustees were Iwan Juba, chairman, Jacob Yuskow and Tymko Yaremko. The first Secretary-Treasurer was Peter Svarich of Vegreville who also got the contract for the original school building, located on S.E. corner of N.W. 17-53-13-W4th. The school was completed that same year and opened early in the fall, but classes did not last long. The first teacher, Joseph Sullivan, died suddenly after only two or three days of work. He was discovered early one morning by two small children who brought him milk for his breakfast. W. Steblyk, who was only eight years old then, and his sister discovered the body. The following teacher was L.B. Mark. The first class consisted of pupils of various sizes ranging in age from six to eighteen, all laboriously studying their A B C's and "Helen See Apple".

Because money was scarce and teachers a rare commodity, school was open only a few months a year, and the children's progress was slow. Following the First World War, school began to operate regularly and many pupils continued their education in high school upon their gradution from the local school. Among the former pupils who entered professional fields of endeavor were:

Dick (Dmytro) Geleta who completed his course in pharmacy and was the druggist and mayor of Two Hills for 37 years; William Yuskow who completed his course in chemistry at the University of Alberta; George Yuskow; William Bushko; M. Ewaschuk; Mrs. Pearl Kuss (nee Steblyk); Steve Samoil and Nick Samoil, all of whom became teachers after completing their Normal School training.

The list of teachers at Kiew School was long. Besides those mentioned previously, the following taught at one time or another: Dr. Gregory Nowak, 1910; Miss Rose, 1914; Michael Luchkowich, 1917-18 (later a Member of parliament for Vegreville Federal Constituency, 1926-1935); Voldimer Mastiuk, 1924; George Yuskow; Pearl Steblyk, early 1930's; Mary (Stewart) Gordon, 1938-42; Nestor Chmilar, 1941-46; William Bushko, 1937-38; 47, and George Cucheran 1947-53.

The school was closed in 1953 and the pupils were vanned to Lavoy and Two Hills.

In 1954 W. Steblyk bought the school building by tender and moved it to Vegreville where it serves as a duplex across the back lane from the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, on the site of the first curling rink.

The families who belonged to the Kiew School District at one time or another, between 1908 and 1953 are as follows: Bachynski, Bushko, Cymbaluk, Chapelski, Dmyterko, Duke, Ewaschuk, Fedyna, Ferleyko, Geleta, Horon, Juba, Kraychy, Killick, Kitz Kitlarchuk, Kuchik, Kisilewich, Misik, Pauk, Pasieka

Samoil, Semeniuk, Swihun, Sawchuk, Steblyk, Sokalski, Semenovich, Wyshinski, Yuskow, Yaremcio, Yaremko, Yakimetz.

The Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church of St. Nicholas at New Kiew was organized as a parish in 1903. The first church, a log building, was started in 1906 on the S.E. corner of S.E. 28-53-13-W4th. It was completed in 1909 and served the parish until 1918 when a new church, of lumber and customary design, was built on the S.W. corner of N.W. 22-53-13-W4th. The new church assumed a new name — The Church of Holy Ascension. The first church was torn down in 1952. In 1929 the parish built a new hall, to add another dimension to the parish. Since then a newer and bigger hall was erected in 1961.

The Labor Hall (U.L.F.T.A.), across the road from the first Catholic Church, was moved to the Ukrainian Heritage Village by Elk Island Park a few years ago.

The R.C. Parish of St. Peter and Paul in the New Kiew District was organized in 1905 and the church was built in 1906, location being the N.W. corner of N.W. 34-53-13-W4th. An imposing new church was built in 1945-46.

Another church, subsequently called the Russian Orthodox Church, was built about 1906 on the N.W. corner of S.W. 30-53-13-W4th. Its final resting place is the Ukrainian Heritage Village by Elk Island Park.

For some of the above information, the writer is indebted to the following people: N. Chmilar, W. Steblyk, J. Misik and J. Yuskow.

UKRAINIAN GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF MAMAESTIE

by Nick Babuik

The early Ukrainian settlers brought with them their customs, heritage and their native traditions. They soon found that in this new land they lacked the spiritual life that they were accustomed to, so in 1914 they organized a parish and proceeded bo build a church.

The original members were: Steve Kaybage, Nick Plaska, Nick Oneschuk, Nick Taschuk, Alex Taschuk, Demetro, Mafty, and Stefan Sherstanko, Stefan Pundick, Wasyl Jacura, Ignaty Logazar, Nick Jacura, Alex Lacusta, John Toderiuk, Nick Archiniuk, John Triska, John Chrapko, Fred Boychuk, Wasyl Toderiuk and Dmetro Nikoliachuk.

The land (N½ Sec. 32 55 11 W4) for the church was donated by Nick Taschuk and Dmetro Sherstanko. The church was built of logs supplied by the members with the main carpenter being Peter Hnatiuk. It was named The Holy Trinity Russo Greek Orthodox Church, and was served by various priests, under the Russian mission. The services were very irregular and far between. In 1942 Rev. A. Chrustawka performed the first service in the Ukrainian language so the church became a member of the Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church of Canada.

In 1953 the church building was remodelled and an addition added, again with members donating labour and material. Walter Gulka of St. Paul was the head carpenter.

In 1954 the parish purchased the old Mamaestie school from the County of Two Hills and converted it to a hall used mainly for church functions. The ladies of the parish formed a local of the Ukrainian Women's Association of Mamaestie, in 1959 which is still an active club today.

A local of the C.Y.M.K. Youth club was organized in 1959 and was active for a few years. The priests that served the parish throughout the years were:

Rev. A. Chrustawka	1926	—	1945 retired
Rev. E. Shwetz	1945	—	1953 deceased
Rev. S. Hredil	1953	—	1958 Edmonton
Rev. M. Kryschuk	1958	—	1961 Edmonton
Rev. A. Chrustawka	1961	—	1965 retired
Rev. W. Melnychuk	1965	—	1970 deceased
Rev. M. Sawchenko	1970	—	1972 Bonnyville
Rev. P. Zubritsky	1972	—	

At present the parish consists of 36 members and are served by Rev. Peter Zubritsky of Two Hills.

Natalie Pundick, friend, and Rose Marie Logozar, 1961.

Young People's Sounks July 8 & 9, 1961

Rose Marie Logozar and Natalie Pundick went to Winnipeg as delegates from Brosseau Sounks. Jerry Metrunec from Mymam also went, travelling by car with Rev. Kreschuk and another older man, also from Mymam. They went to attend a ceremony and services for the dedication of a monument to Taras Sawchenko. There were people from all over the world to attend this ceremony. The young people were billeted in different homes in the city.

Sounks young people would go carolling at Christmas, to homes in their neighborhood. They gave concerts, in Ukrainian, in the Mamaestic Hall. With the money they raised, they bought a "Kewat" for the Mamaestie Orthodox Church. There is a white ribbon in that church on which their names are inscribed. A fine group of dedicated young people they were!

MAMAESTIE LADIES CLUB

by Lucy Pundick

The Mamaestie Ladies Club was formed in April 7, 1959. The church members purchased the school house for the use of a hall and until they could raise enough money to fix it up they used the cloakroom for a kitchen till 1972.

However, during the summer of that year they hired Mike Pundick (who with a little prodding from Lucy) to build them a kitchen. They purchased their first set of dishes in February 1960 but the first cupboard was not built till May 1963. The women did many sacrifices with little space and not too many commodities but many delicious meals have been served for various church events.

Lucy Pundick has been the caretaker since they started so remembers many happy events that took place in their little hall.

The Ukrainian Association of Mamaestie, through the years helped for a many weddings and catered for many funeral and memorial dinners.

Past-Presidents of the Mamaestie Ladies' Club at their 10th Anniversary: Bessie Boychuk, Mary Marchenko, Anne Babiuk.

Original Members of the
Mamaestie Ladies Club

1959

Bessie Boychuk
Jean Logozar
Anne Werenka
Mary Taschuk
Anne Snaychuk
Mary Ewanchuk
Jean Ternovoy
Mona Bereska
Mary Marchenko
Lucy Pundick
Stephania Chrapko
Kate Lupul
Kate Hryhirchuk
Anne Babuik
Rose G. Plaska
Kate Oneschuk
Rose S. Plaska

1969

10th Anniversary Celebrated May 14
Anne Babuik
Bessie Boychuk
Kate Lupul
Mary Marchenko
Anne Werenka
Lucy Pundick
Rose G. Plaska
Jean Ternovoy
Kate Logozar
Mary Ewanchuk
Presidents to this point
Bessie Boychuk
Mary Marchenko
Anne Babuik (1969)

1979

Mary Kabage
Anne Werenka
Kate Lupul
Mary Marchenko
Jean Ternovoy
Anita Lupul
Shirley Lupul

Bessie Boychuk
Lucy Pundick
Lucy Twerdohlib
Thelma Pundick
Rose S. Plaska
Anne Babuik

NEW BOARD 1979
Thelma Pundick, Pres.
Anne Babiuk, Treasurer
Rose. S. Plaska, Sec.

Members of the Mamaestie Ladies Club; Back Row L to R: Anne Babiuk, Bessie Boychuk, Kate Lupul, Mary Marchenko; Middle Row: Anne Werenka, Lucy Pundick, Rose G. Plaska, Kate Logozar, Mary Ewanchuk, Front: Jean Ternovoy.

Luzan Church.

UKRAINIAN GREEN ORTHORDOX CHURCH OF LUZAN

by John Ewasuik

As the early settlers moved in this area they felt the need of a church so it wasn't too long that the neighbors formed a parish group and a church committee was nominated.

The land was donated by George Ponich in 1910 and a site chosen on a hill where the church can be seen for miles around. The next step was to get the logs cut and everybody were willing to give their free labour. Some of the first ones to help were William Basaraba, Mr. Goroniuk, Ewan Chibri, Pete Harasym, Mr. Divernaychuk, John Kupchanko, Nick Orleski, George Ponich and many others. A group was formed to cut the logs and others hauled the logs to the site. It wasn't long that the logs were in place and the square completed. The main carpenter was Eli Antoniuk and Demenky Kroytor. The ladies also did their share by furnishing hot meals on the site as the men worked. It was like a big family gathering.

As soon as the roof was on they held the first service. There was a big dinner outside and everybody brought food to celebrate the occasion. Many came from miles around bringing their whole family. A good thing that it was a beautiful day because there was no room to sit everybody in the church.

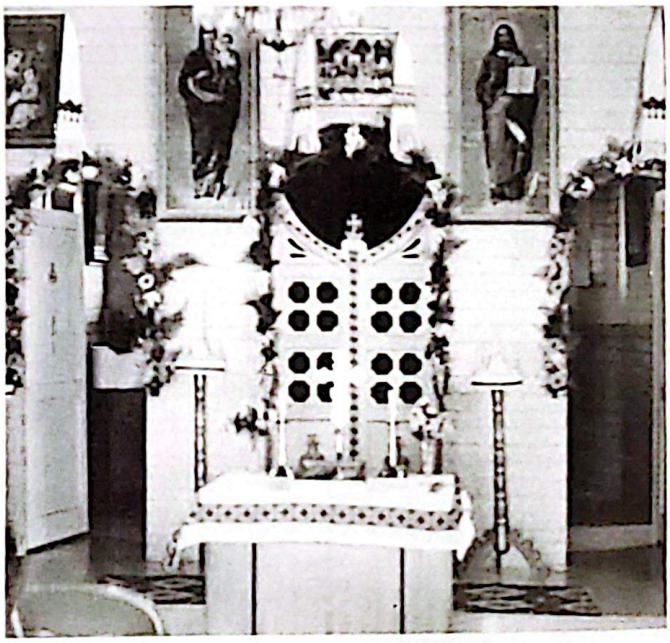
Late Mr. Elzear Moisin helped to finish the inside and installed the windows. When the woodwork was completed, the painting and designs were done by Mr. Lasakowski who was a real artist at decorating churches.

The first marriage performed there was Philip Mandruk who married Riafti Meroniuk.

Some of the Priests that looked after the needs of the parishioner from 1925 to 1980 were:

Rev. Chrustawka	1926	— 1945	Retired
Rev. E. Shwetz	1945	— 1953	Deceased
Rev. S. Hredil	1953	— 1958	Edmonton
Rev. M. Kryschuk	1958	— 1961	Edmonton
Rev. A. Chrustawka	1961	— 1965	Retired
Rev. M. Melnychuk	1965	— 1970	Deceased
Rev. M. Sawchenko	1970	— 1972	Bonnyville
Rev. P. Zubritsky	1972	—	Two Hills

The members of the church are proud of their hall. They purchased the Luzan two-room school in the early 50's and converted it to a small community hall and furnished it, and serves their needs for small gatherings, which are held there quite frequently.



Inside view of the Luzan Greek Orthodox Church (1977).

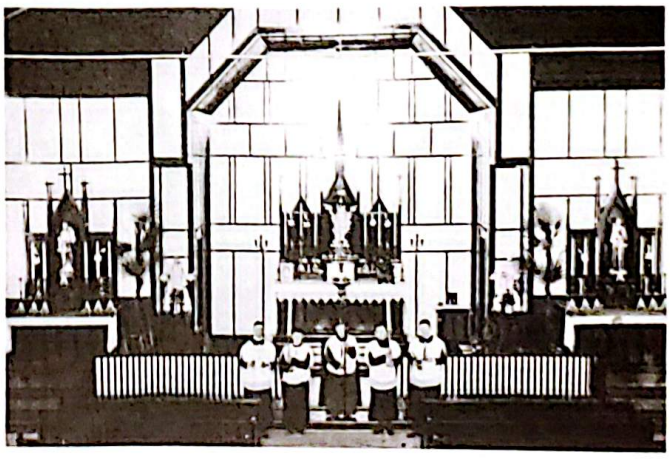
St. Bernard Church Lafond, Alberta, (1938).

LAFOND PARISH

The parish of Lafond was started as a mission in 1908. Mass was celebrated in a granary belonging to Eugene Foisy, at other times at Ernest Cloutier's place, later the Ovila Jean home. Father Husson from Saddle Lake and Father Clermont from Brosseau each took a Sunday to say mass. In 1912 a chapel was built, south of the present rectory. In 1915, Father Hamlin, the first resident priest, arrived from Quebec. A rectory was soon built. The first parish council consisted of Richmond Malo, Alphonse Foisy and Elzear Fraser. The first baptism was on August 25, 1915 — Victor, son of Raoul Paradis and Doria Foisy.

A succesion of priests followed, some for a short while, others longer. Life in the west was not the easiest and all could not adjust to this. Father Leclainche came for a while to say Sunday mass; Father Tessier was resident priest for a few years. He organized box socials and card parties to raise money for a new church, which was built and blessed in 1926. Father Boucher came in 1931. He planted some of the spruce trees which are still there. Father Paul Mailloux came in 1935 and although his health was not too good, he did a lot for the parish. He built an addition to the rectory, a garage, got the church wired. He is well remembered for the beautiful big hand-carved crucifix that is still in the church. He also planted many trees around the church property. Father Sebastien Loranger was here for a short time, about six months. He was a sickly man at the time. Father Lerouge came next for a period of about seven years. He had the grotto of the Virgin Mary built. He always sat down to preach, as he had bad legs — a relic of his war years — yet people really enjoyed his preaching. He was replaced in 1958 by Father Tardif who did a lot of repairing to the wiring and heating systems in the church and had the interior of the church repainted. He died of a heart attack in the rectory on July 6, 1962. He was the first priest to be buried in Lafond cemetery. He was replaced by Father Tellier, a young enterprising fellow who did a lot to improve the parish. In 1965 Father Tanquay was appointed parish priest. He also was quite young and very active. In 1968 Father Ricard came for a replacement, and he also replaced the bishop in St. Paul during his absence. He was also a qualified school teacher and replaced at school when a teacher was ill or had to be away for a meeting or other reason.

In 1969 he left for a holiday in England, as he really needed a rest after the bishop's return. Ironically, he had a good trip, but was killed in a car accident, when returning from the airport. He was the second priest to be buried in the Lafond cemetery. Father Noel was his replacement, followed by Father Tetu, then Father Grondin and at present Father Leonard Derome, who says Sunday Mass at Brosseau also, and residing in Lafond. He also says the Saturday night mass in Elk Point.



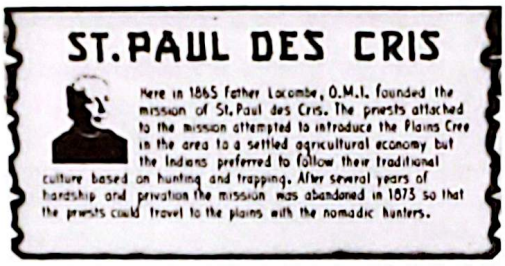
Blessing of the St. Bernard Roman Catholic Church of Lafond in 1926.

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH IN BROSSEAU-DUVERNAY

by Lucia Robinson

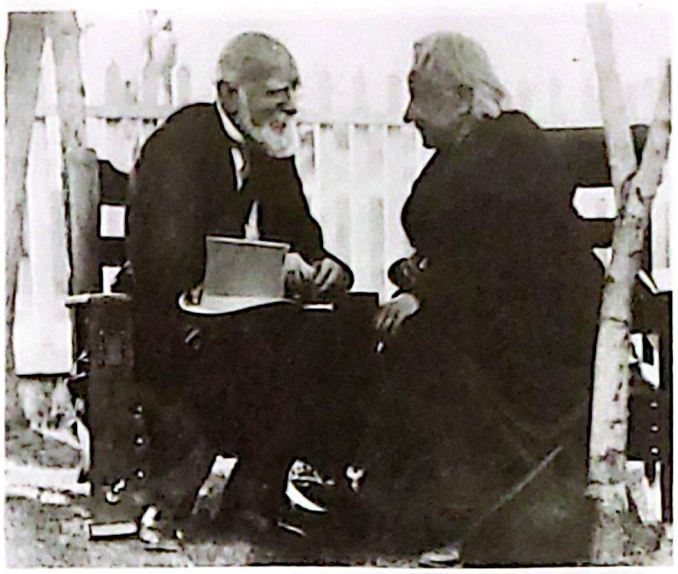
From the summit of the hill on the north end of the Brosseau-Duvernay bridge, a little church looks down upon a valley filled with nostalgia. At its base is a historical site designated by the Department of Northern Parks Canada.

A placque honoring Father Lacombe was unveiled jointly by Mr. William Turnbull, Director of Western Region Parks Canada, and Rev. Emeric Drouin, on August 31, 1975. The dedication was made by Most Rev. Raymond Roy, Archbishop of St. Paul.


ST. PAUL DES CRIS
Here in 1865 Father Lacombe, O.M.I. founded the mission of St. Paul des Cris. The priests attached to the mission attempted to introduce the Plains Cree in the area to a settled agricultural economy but the Indians preferred to follow their traditional culture based on hunting and trapping. After several years of hardship and privation the mission was abandoned in 1875 so that the priests could travel to the plains with the nomadic hunters.

Other missionaries followed Father Lacombe and visited St. Paul des Cris: Alexis Andre (who assisted Louis Riel during his last moments before execution) (1867-1871); Victor Borgine (1869); Joseph Dupin (1869-1873); Leon Doucet (1870-1872); Brothers Constantin and Scollen (1873); Victor Italican (1870-1871).

As the homesteaders arrived and began building the community, the need for a church became prominent in their plans. Most families were Roman Catholics who wished to maintain their religious traditions.



Father Lacombe the founder of St. Paul des Cris Mission here at Brosseau in 1865, having a friendly talk with Lord Strathcona in 1900.

Father Alexis Andre O.M.I. who was in charge of the St. Paul des Cris Mission here 1867-1871 as director.

The Roman Catholic Church built in 1907 and destroyed by fire in 1932. People were well off even in those days, as you can see by the display of modern cars lined up in this picture taken in 1927.

The ornate interior of the Saint Laurent Church. Mr. Ferrier Ouellette is standing in front of the altar.

The Saint Laurent Roman Catholic Church in Brosseau built in 1907 and destroyed by fire in 1932.

The rectory near the church. Father Campeau is standing in the front, looking down toward the river. Taken in the late thirties.

The next church to be built in these localities was in South Bend. It was also used as the first school in the hamlet, and was completely destroyed in 1906 by fire of uncertain origin.

The question then arose, "Where should the church be built?" Both hamlets wanted it. At first it was suggested that one be built on each side of the river with a travelling priest serving each alternately.

Bishop Legal called a meeting in St. Paul de Metis on August 8, 1907 to settle the question. There was a good attendance despite the poor roads and inclement weather. He explained that it was impossible to have two priests serving two parishes so close together when other parishes further apart had none. Since Brosseau had been the site of Father Lacombe's original, it should be the logical solution.

In February, 1908, Father Clermont was sent to establish the parish. Mr. Edmond Brosseau Sr. had the logs sawed into lumber, donated the land for the church and donated $500 towards its cost.

On June 7, 1908 Bishop Legal came to Brosseau to bless the cornerstone. The parish became known as Paroisse de St. Laurent. St. Laurent was a martyr in the early years of the church who preferred to be burned on a grill rather than give up his religious convictions. Bishop Legal congratulated the parishioners for their courage to undertake the building of a church when funds were so few.

The ladies of the parish organized parties, concerts and raffles to raise money. Mrs. Duquette canvassed business people in Edmonton for donations.

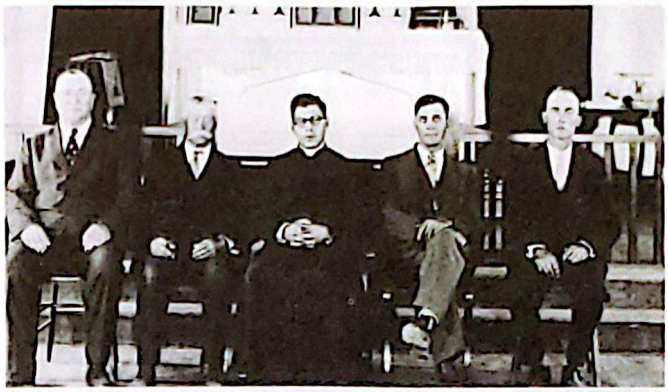
Father Chanoir	$10.00
J.H. Gariepy	5.00
Douglas Co.	2.00
N.O. Houle	1.00
Unknown	2.00
Dr. Blais	10.00
N. Ostiquay	5.00
M.E. Cloutier	2.00

Other donations came from Lafond, Ben's Lake, Duvernay, Brosseau, Foisy, etc. Mr. Onesime Paradis was chosen to supervise the construction.

On June 24, St. John the Baptist Day, although the church wasn't completed, mass was held. THE CHURCH WAS BEING BLESSED. It was a beautiful day. The flag was flying high to celebrate the occasion. There were tents set up for the visitors who had arrived the previous evening. Father Chanoir, from the Immaculate Conception Church in Edmonton was delegated to represent Bishop Legal who was unable to be present.

The celebration started with a mass sung by Father Bonnet of St. Vincent. Father Cadieux gave the sermon and Father Chanoir blessed the church. Dinner was served on the grounds by Mrs. St. Hilaire and the ladies of the parish. At 5:00 P.M. speeches were made by invited dignitaries and supper was served. Afterwards there was benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Fireworks closed the day. At last the people had a permanent place to worship.

The St. Laurent Church built in 1933. Picture taken 1956.



The church trustees of St. Laurent Parish in 1932-1933. Mr. J.B. Brosseau, Mrs. Joseph Desrosiers, Mr. Jeremie Lapierre, Mr. Camille Gamache, Father St. Arnaud - parish priest. Taken before the altar in the church.

Seated — Camille Gamache, Joseph Desrosiers, Father St. Arnaud, Jeremie Lapierre, J.B. Brosseau. Present at the church: Father Chartrand; Mr. and Mrs. Joe Theroux, Omer and Cecile; Mrs. Desrosiers; Mr. and Mrs. J.B. Vincent, Annette, Armand, Victor; Alice Venne; Mr. and Mrs. H. Pare; Mrs. Venne; Mr. and Mrs. Emery Theroux, Jeanne, Philippe; Mr. F.X. Lapierre; Frank Lapierre; Mrs. Barnes; Mr. and Mrs. Martin Lavallee; Mr. and Mrs. Zephyr St. Hilaire, Clarisse, Florien and Yvette; Mrs. Camille Gamanche; Mrs. Joseph Brosseau, Lucia Florence; Mr. and Mrs. Albert Didier; Mr. Gauthier and sons; Ovila Vincent; Mr. and Mrs. Rheaume; Mr. and Mrs. Vallee and baby; Mrs. Chouinard; Mrs. J.B. Brosseau, Leon, Simone, Doris, Carmen; Mrs. Grenier, Bernard; Madeleine Johnston; Harry Ostash; Mrs. and Mrs. Paul Ouellette; Mrs. Jeremie Lapierre; Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Moisin; Mrs. Gaston Bachelet; Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Theroux; Henry Adelard and Arthur Coutu; Rene Grenier.

Clergy present at the blessing of the church in 1933. Rev. Lucien OMI of the College of St. Jean; Rev. Prudent St. Arnaud, Parish priest; Rev. Michel Boucher, Colonizer; Most Rev. Archbishop O'Leary, Edmonton; Rev. S. Loranger, Plamond; Rev. Armand Boucher OMI, Provincial Superior; Rev. Benoit Marchand, Picardville; Rev. Charlemagne Jacques, College St. Jean.

Father Trembley, Mrs. Chouillard, Mrs. Marc Girard, Mrs. Vincent and Mrs. St. Hiliare having tea.

The cost of the building was approximately $7000.00. It was finished in October 1914. Again Mr. Onesime Paradis undertook to supervise the work of building the steeple and installing the bell. It took three weeks.

One Sunday morning in the early winter of 1932 the people of Brosseau and Duvernay attended mass as usual. That evening the residents of the village noticed flames shooting out of the windows. There was no fire department to call in those days so, before they could assemble and try to save the building, it was beyond rescue. It was completely destroyed. Later they found the bell in the ruins and the top part of the steeple was discovered in the hay at some distance away.

Once more building a church became a priority. The original site was cleared of debris and another church was constructed on the same spot. Mr. Terrerington of St. Paul contracted to stucco the building. The old bell was welded but it lost its sound so a new one was canvassed from the CPR.

The blessing of this new church was a gala affair. Most Rev. Archbishop O'Leary of the Edmonton diocese, accompanied by several priests, came to perform the ceremony. Afterwards a picnic, in the grove behind the church, was enjoyed by the people of the parish and their friends from Lafond and Ben's Lake and surrounding parishes.

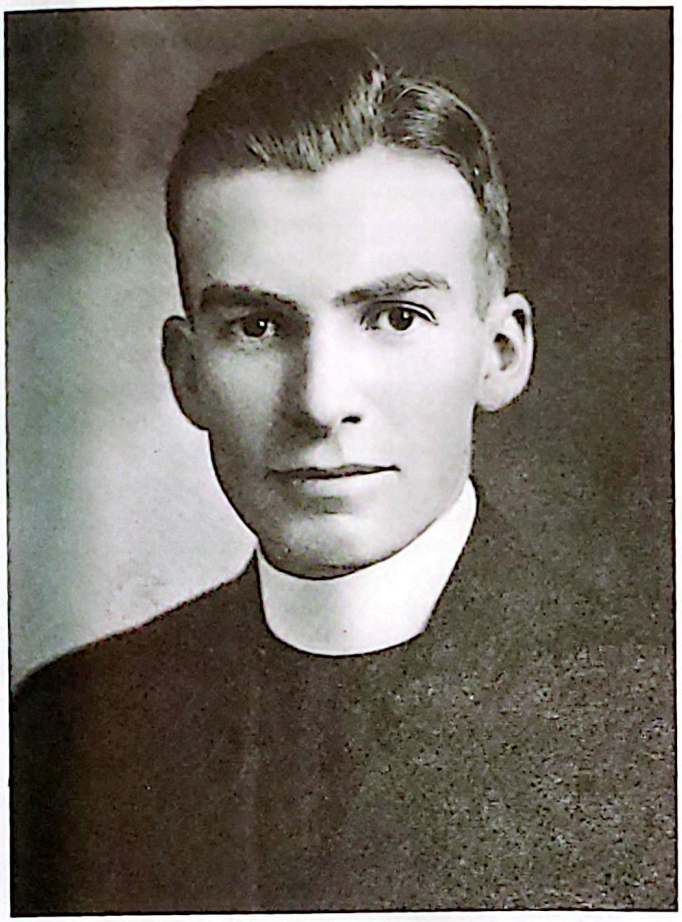
Throughout the years many rumors originate that this parish will be closed because the Catholic population has decreased alarmingly. Yet we still are fortunate enough to have the services of the priest from Lafond who comes every week. Hopes are still high that we can enjoy this privilege for many more years even if it is difficult to find enough priests to serve all the parishes in the diocese of St. Paul, to which we now belong.

The priests who served this parish were:

Mission	— Fathers Garnier from Vegreville
1907-11	— Rev. Clermont
1911-17	— Rev. Leduc
1917-19	— Rev. LaChappelle
1919-23	— Rev. Tremblay
1923-26	— Rev. Pratt from Saddle Lake
1926-29	— Rev. Chartrand
1929-30	— Rev. Doyle
1930-34	— Rev. St. Arnaud
1934-35	— Rev. Leclair
1935-50	— Rev. Campeau
1950-51	— Rev. Barkley
1951-53	— Rev. Lerouge
1953-58	— Rev. Bouchard
1959-62	— Rev. Lachance
1962-65	— Rev. Pigeon
1965-68	— Rev. Fernand Croteau
1969-71	— Rev. Tetu
1971-75	— Rev. Grondin
1975-80	— Rev. Derome

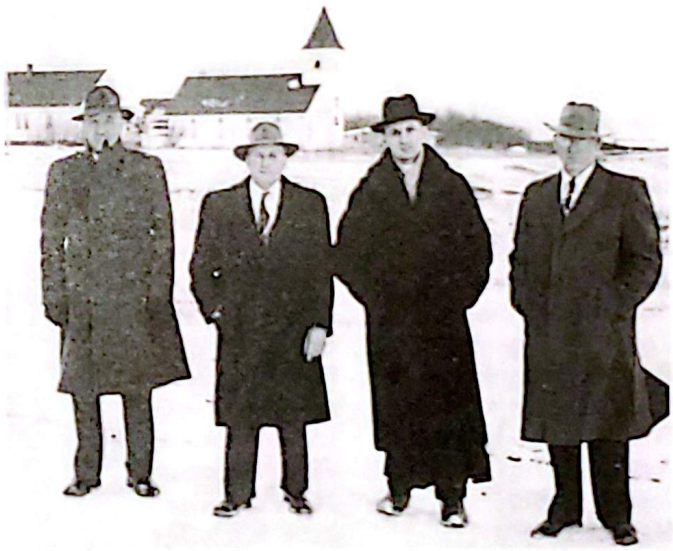
Fr. Clemont. Served 1907-1911

Rev. J.B. Lachapelle, Roman Catholic Priest in 1918.



Rev. Hugo Doyle parish priest of St. Laurent Church, Brosseau, 1929-1930.

Rev. Z. Campeau and Rev. Morin with Joe Brosseau and family, in the late thirties.



The Church Council; Mr. Bernard Wirachowsky, Mr. Adelard Ouellette, Rev. Father Bouchard, Hector Coutu.

Father Lachance (1959)

Excerpts from the register of births, marriage and deaths for the Province of Alberta (Recorded by the parish priest of the St. Laurent Church of Brosseau).

First birth — Frozie Scryrinskey — Sex - Female — Father - Maftai Scryrinskey, Brosseau. Date of birth - January 13th, 1908.

First Baptism — Marie Rose Bouley, Sex - Female — Father - Adelard Bouley, Brosseau. Birth - January 18th, 1908.

First Marriage — Leonard Girard — Bride - Rosina Michon. Married on July 8th, 1908.

First death — Marie Rose Boulet — Sex - Female — January 21st, 1908.

REGISTER OF MARRIAGES REGISTRATION
DIVISION OF BROSSEAU ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Leonard Girard	Rosina Michon	July 8, 1908	Brosseau	Rev. A. Clermont
Wilfred Cloutier	Cecile Bernier	July 12, 1908	Brosseau	Rev. A. Clermont
Eugene Beland	Blanche Boileau	Oct. 26, 1909	Brosseau	Rev. A. Clermont
Johnny Brosseau	Blanche Lafond	June 7, 1910	Brosseau	Rev. A. Clermont
Eugene Ouellette	Marie Louise Lapierre	July 12, 1910	Brosseau	Rev. A. Clermont
Edmond Robinson	Marie Lafreniere	Aug. 18, 1910	Brosseau	Rev. A. Clermont
Joseph Belanger	Laura Poulin	Nov. 22, 1910	Brosseau	Rev. A. Clermont
Alladin Foisy	Laurence Marion	Jan. 31, 1911	Brosseau	Rev. A. Clermont
Jean Batiste Foisy	Emma Bergeron	Feb. 16, 1911	Brosseau	Rev. A. Clermont
Odilion Gagné	Bertha Noel	July 17, 1911	Brosseau	Rev. J.B. Leduc
Antoinne Brault	Elvina Theroux	Apr. 18, 1912	Brosseau	Rev. J.B. Leduc
Alphonse Gallant	Helene Despins	Nov. 12, 1912	Brosseau	Rev. J.B. Leduc
Zephir St. Hilaire	Mathilda Theroux	July 9, 1912	Brosseau	Rev. J.B. Leduc
Ferdinand Lajoie	Rose Anna Lafreniere	Aug. 5, 1912	Brosseau	Rev. J.B. Leduc
Arthur Lefebre	Armina Roberge	Jan. 7, 1913	Brosseau	Rev. J.B. Leduc
Honore Theroux	Marguerite Tardy	Jan. 21, 1913	Brosseau	Rev. J.B. Leduc
Elie Theroux	Martha Orlecki	Feb. 3, 1913	Brosseau	Rev. J.B. Leduc
Wilfred Lefebre	Louisa Desrosiers	May 6, 1913	Brosseau	Rev. J.B. Leduc
Joseph Brosseau	Lucie Coutu	June 10, 1913	Brosseau	Rev. F.A. Husson
Onesieme Paradis	Anna Chouinard	June 30, 1914	Brosseau	Rev. J.B. Leduc
J. Charles Hardy	Marie Anne St. Hilaire	June 11, 1915	Brosseau	Rev. J.B. Leduc
Alphonse Brosseau	Hazel Latimer	Apr. 19, 1915	Brosseau	Rev. J.B. Leduc
David Charron	Leopoldine Bernier	July 19, 1915	Brosseau	Rev. P.A. Rondard
George Desrosiers	Clarisse Theroux	July 20, 1915	Brosseau	Rev. P.A. Rondard
Paul Lefebre	Orise Desrosiers	July 20, 1915	Brosseau	Rev. P.A. Rondard
Joseph Lapierre	Alida Theroux	Nov. 22, 1915	Brosseau	Rev. P.A. Leduc
Joseph Theroux	Bernadette Ouellette	Jan. 10, 1916	Brosseau	Rev. J.B. Leduc
Adelard Desrosiers	Emelda Beaudette	Feb. 28, 1916	Beauvallon	Rev. J.B. Leduc
Louis Theroux	Eva Despins	Jan. 9, 1917	Brosseau	Rev. J.B. Leduc
Peter Shertyanka	Dominika Severin	Feb. 15, 1917	Brosseau	Rev. Gregory Soroka
Emile Carrier	Anna Gamache	May 1, 1917	Brosseau	Rev. J.B. Leduc
D. Arthur Gamache	Lucienne A. Despins	Jan. 7, 1918	Brosseau	Rev. J.B. Lachapelle
Alcide J. Theroux	Blanche Boileau	Apr. 16, 1918	Brosseau	Rev. J.B. Lachapelle
Joseph Carey	Marie Lavallee	June 5, 1918	Brosseau	Rev. J.B. Lachapelle
Metro Lewicky	Irene Iwanyshyn	Aug. 13, 1918	Saddle lake	Rev. J.B. Lachapelle
Charles Le Hagrurat	Camilia Moity	Oct. 29, 1918	Beauvallon	Rev. J.B. Lachapelle
J. Edmond Lachapelle	Marie Catherine Despins	July 2, 1919	Brosseau	Rev. R. Moitruese
Camille Gamache	Ida Roberge	Nov. 22, 1926	Beauvallon	Rev. M. Chartrand
Metro Sherstianka	Freda Eluik	Nov. 6, 1927	Brosseau	Rev. S. Sherstianka
Harry James Stratton	Clara Daignault	Feb. 7, 1920	Brosseau	Rev. Louis Tremblay
Albert Jean Barnes	Rose De Lima Lapierre	June 30, 1920	Brosseau	Rev. Louis Tremblay
Athanase Venne	Marie Theroux	Nov. 17, 1920	Brosseau	Rev. Louis Tremblay
Ernest Hirard (Le Heruenegilde)	Laura Venne	Nov. 17, 1920	Brosseau	Rev. Louis Tremblay
John Melnychuk	Mary Arychuk	Nov. 27, 1921	Duvernay	Stefan Sherstianka
Elphege Desrosiers	Rachel Piché	Feb. 21, 1922	Brosseau	Rev. Louis Tremblay
Ulric Venne	Alice Vincent	Aug. 1, 1922	Brosseau	Rev. Louis Tremblay
Charles Bresden	Blanche Chouinard	Nov. 22, 1926	Brosseau	Rev. M. Chartrand
Mike S. Millar	Mary Ewasuik	Dec. 17, 1922	Brosseau	Rev. Louis Tremblay
Eugene Theroux	Albina Lapierre	Sept. 26, 1926	Brosseau	Rev. Louis Tremblay
Harry Ewasiuk	Nida Krawchuk	June 8, 1924	Rife	Rev. S. Sherstianka
Gaston Bachelet	Sylva Ouellette	July 22, 1924	Brosseau	Rev. J.A. Pratt
Marcel Clement Allain	Cecile Ouellette	Nov. 24, 1925	Brosseau	Rev. J.A. Pratt

Adlarde Ouellette	Helene Grenier	Dec. 28, 1926	Brosseau	Rev. N. Chartrand
Moise Theroux	Mary Chrapko	May 9, 1927	Brosseau	Rev. N. Chartrand
William James Armour	Emma Pare	Nov. 23, 1927	Brosseau	Rev. N. Chartrand
Alphonse Theroux	Eva Gray	Dec. 27, 1927	Brosseau	Rev. N. Chartrand
Gaspard Foisy	Denise Vincent	July 17, 1928	Brosseau	Rev. M. Chartrand
William Pashniak	Mary Sherstianka	July 29, 1928	Brosseau	Steve Sherstianka
Paul Tessier	Olivine Lapierre	Oct. 23, 1928	Brosseau	Rev. N. Chartrand
Eugene Desrosiers	Annette Paré	Nov. 6, 1928	Brosseau	Rev. N. Chartrand
Fortunat Charron	Gilberte Grenier	Jan. 15, 1929	Brosseau	Rev. N. Chartrand
Carl Sorochan	Gennie Melnychuk	Feb. 3, 1929	Glendon	Stefan Sherstianka
John Kruska	Elizabeth Rosychuk	May 16, 1929	Brosseau	Rev. Chrustawka
Metro Hryhirchuk	Genia Popowich	Oct 11, 1930	Brosseau	Rev. Chrustawka
George Babiuk	Mary Boychuck	Sept. 7, 1930	Brosseau	Rev. A. Chrustawka
Percy Sirois	Florence Paradis	Nov. 11, 1930	Brosseau	R.P. St. Arnault
Alfred Joseph Nelson	Rita Melnychuk	Nov. 2, 1930	Glendon	S. Sherstianka
John Hnatuik	Helen Boyko	Nov. 21, 1930	Brosseau	Rev. A. Chrustawka
Walter Bobenko	Mary Filipchuk	May 19, 1931	Glendon	S. Sherstianka
Alcime Vallée	Alice Lapierre	July 13, 1931	Brosseau	Rev. P. St. Arnault
Julien Gervais	Odelie Coutu	Dec. 29, 1932	Brosseau	Rev. P. St. Arnault
John Logozar	Rose Marie Fraser	Feb. 25, 1932	Brosseau	Rev. A. Chrustawka
William Rheaume	Clara Picard-Borthel	Nov. 11, 1933	Brosseau	Rev. P. St. Arnault
Joseph W. Venne	Helen C. Simpson	Nov. 21, 1933	Brosseau	Rev. St. Arnault
Metro Pashniak	Anne Pundick	Feb. 18, 1934	Brosseau	Rev. John Chrustawka
John Archinuik	Mary Harmatiuk	Feb. 18, 1934	Brosseau	Rev. J. Chrustawka
Mike Pundick	Lucy Harbarenko	Aug. 12, 1934	Brosseau	Rev. J. Chrustawka
Emile Coutu	Germaine Bouchard	Nov. 27, 1934	Brosseau	Rev. J. Chrustawka
Albert Didier	Daisy Marsh	May 22, 1932	Brosseau	Rev. St. Arnault
Nick Pedscalny	Francis Petesky	Jan. 9, 1935	Brosseau	Rev. Z.A. Campeau
Trifon Arychuk	Stephania Taschuk	Nov. 25, 1934	Brosseau	Rev. A. Chrustawka
Philias Lapierre	Dora Formos	Nov. 10, 1935	Brosseau	Rev. Z.A. Campeau
Arthur Bossé	Agnes Hellrud	July 15, 1937	Brosseau	Rev. Z.A. Campeau
Louis Lapierre	Annie Formos	Oct. 10, 1937	Brosseau	Rev. Z.A. Campeau
Sylvio Ouellette	Gemma Lord	Oct. 12, 1937	Brosseau	Rev. Z.A. Campeau
Marshal Hryhirchuck	Rosie Mandrusiak	Nov. 20, 1937	Brosseau	Rev. Z.A. Campeau
Mike Mandrusiak	Kate Polowsky	June 9, 1938	Brosseau	Rev. Z.A. Campeau
Walter Peteski	Anna Eskiw	June 19, 1938	Brosseau	Rev. Z.A. Campeau
Emile Dagenais	Simonne Brosseau	July 2, 1938	Brosseau	Rev. Z.A. Campeau
Auguste Bosse	Hazel Hellrud	Apr. 27, 1939	Brosseau	Rev. Z.A. Campeau
Laurent Lavallee	Emma Bossé	Aug. 15, 1939	Brosseau	Rev. Z.A. Campeau
John Oberkish	Maria Wanner	Aug. 23, 1939	Brosseau	Rev. Z.A. Campeau
Ernest Didier	Bernice Peterson	Oct. 2, 1939	Brosseau	Rev. Z.A. Campeau
Stanley Yusohyshyn	Jennie Kostyniuk	Apr. 27, 1940	Brosseau	Rev. Z.A. Campeau
Edward Weir	Rita Lavallee	Oct. 8, 1941	Brosseau	Rev. Z.A. Campeau
Roger Coutu	Pearl Agnes Emes	Apr. 4, 1942	Brosseau	Rev. Z.A. Campeau
Joseph Lacrosse	Marguerite Smith	June 28, 1943	Brosseau	Rev. Z.A. Campeau
Steve Tymkow	Annie Bereska	Jan. 20, 1944	Brosseau	Rev. Z.A. Campeau
Mike Michailayk	Dorothy Bodnar	June 18, 1944	Brosseau	Rev. Z.A. Campeau
John Chorney	Annie Jacura	Aug. 28, 1944	Brosseau	Rev. Z.A. Campeau
James Crawford	Lillianne Rioux	July 12, 1945	Brosseau	Rev. Z.A. Campeau
Louis Rioux	Madonna Wirackowski	Oct. 11, 1945	Brosseau	Rev. Z.A. Campeau
Rene Robinson	Lucia Brosseau	Nov. 27, 1945	Brosseau	Rev. Z.A. Campeau
William Smith	Hazel Emes	Apr. 23, 1946	Brosseau	Rev. Z.A. Campeau
Lloyd Butcher	Ermine Brosseau	Nov. 4, 1947	Brosseau	Rev. Z.A. Campeau
Peter Chrapko	Almeda Lakusta	Jan. 30, 1948	Brosseau	Rev. Z.A. Campeau
William Chamberlain	Leonie Robinson	Oct. 18, 1948	Brosseau	Rev. Z.A. Campeau
Real Lavoie	Helen Bodnar	July 19, 1949	Brosseau	Rev. Z.A. Campeau
Clerence Flanagan	Irene Wym	Dec. 27, 1949	Brosseau	Rev. Z.A. Campeau
Harry Dronyk	Brenda Holland	Jan. 17, 1949	Brosseau	Rev. Z.A. Campeau
Hector Coutu	Suzanne Bachelet	Oct. 31, 1949	Brosseau	Rev. Z.A. Campeau

Edward Brosseau	Sara Watt	May 26, 1950	Brosseau	Rev. Z.A. Campeau
Bernard Weir	Gisele Ouellette	Nov. 10, 1951	Brosseau	Rev. R. Lerouge
John Boychuk	Regina Brosseau	Nov. 4, 1952	Brosseau	Rev. R. Lerouge
Robert Bachelet	Lorraine Berlinguette	Oct. 20, 1955	St. Paul	Rev. Viel
Mike Marcichiw	Lucille Ouellette	Oct. 15, 1955	Brosseau	Rev. Girard Bouchard
J. Germain Blanchette	Gladys Smith	Nov. 21, 1955	Brosseau	Rev. Gerard Bouchard
Omer Theroux	Irene Pontannier	Feb. 28, 1957	Brosseau	Rev. Gerard Bouchard
Joseph Pigeau	Cecile Theroux	Jan. 10, 1959	Brosseau	Rev. Joseph Lachance
Gaitan Ouellette	Candide Boulianne	Aug. 17, 1960	Brosseau	Rev. Joseph Lachance
Henri Brault	Priscilla Smith	June 10, 1961	Brosseau	Rev. Joseph Lachance
Edward Dubrule	Vitaline Ouellette	July 4, 1961	Brosseau	Rev. Joseph Lachance
Roger Jean	Suzanne Boullianne	Apr. 9, 1962	Brosseau	Joseph Lachance
Julien Bachelet	Marie Marthe Boulianne	May 1, 1965	Brosseau	Rev. Jean Luc Pigeon
Bertrand Ouellette	Jeannette St. Gelais	Dec. 27, 1965	Brosseau	Rev. Jean Luc Pigeon
James St. Germain	Constance Bachelet	June 5, 1967	Brosseau	Rev. Jean Luc Pigeon
Jerome Woods	Gisele St. Gelais	Oct. 21, 1967	Brosseau	Rev. Jean Luc Pigeon
Ronald Chornuhus	Elaine Lavallee	Apr. 27, 1968	Brosseau	Rev. Jean Luc Pigeon
Marcel Jean	Dianne Oneschuk	July 20, 1968	Brosseau	Rev. Jean Luc Pigeon
James Filiwich	Barbara Robinson	Sept. 8, 1970	Brosseau	Rev. Edmond Grondin
Gerry Parenteau	Lorraine Marsh	May 20, 1972	Brosseau	Rev. Rosario Grondin
Bill Tarkowski	Roberta Weir	June 9, 1972	Brosseau	Rev. Rosario Grondin
John Chrapko	Marguerite Marsh	Oct. 27, 1973	Brosseau	Rev. Rosario Grondin
Edward Miller	Loretta Muiri	July 6, 1974	Brosseau	Rev. Rosario Grondin
Allan Baleski	Denise Weir	May 10, 1974	Brosseau	Rev. Rosario Grondin
Gerald Ouellette	Gloria Bykewich	June 21, 1975	Brosseau	Rev. Rosario Grondin
Robert Marsh	Georgette Chrapko	Oct. 16, 1976	Brosseau	Rev. Leonard Derome
Roland Coutu	Joanne Chornuhus	Feb. 7, 1976	St. Paul	Rev. Poulin
Chris Redrington	Louise Bachelet	July 23, 1977	Brosseau	Rev. Leonard Derome
Andre Robinson	Denise Coutu	July 22, 1978	St. Paul	Rev. Leonard Derome
Harvey Trach	Jane Zelez	Aug. 27, 1977	Brosseau	Rev. Leonard Derome
Ken Laschowski	Barbara Trach	Aug. 25, 1979	Brosseau	Rev. Leonard Derome
Jules Dupperon	Mavis Stestko	July 7, 1979	Brosseau	Rev. Leonard Derome
Phillip McKenzie	Catherine Brosseau	July 7, 1979	Brosseau	Rev. Leonard Derome
Terry Stefuik	Janelle Dupperon	Feb. 16, 1980	Brosseau	Rev. Leonard Derome
Adrien Coutu	Debbie Kretzul	May 17, 1980	Brosseau	Rev. Leonard Derome

BURIALS IN BROSSEAU ROMAN CATHOLIC CEMETERY

Venne	Aug.	1907	15 yrs.
Marie Rose Bouley	Jan. 21	1908	2 days old
Aurore Bourget	Jan. 22	1908	16 months
Angele Poirier	Sept. 11	1908	1 day
Marie Fournel	Nov. 21	1908	1 day old
Anthanase Pepin	Sept. 3	1908	3 months
Danne Fournel	Nov. 23	1908	36 yrs.
Joseph Henri Venne	Mar. 3	1909	2 yrs.
Anna Pigeau	Nov. 21	1909	3 yrs.
Wilfred J.B. Bergeron	June 1	1910	1 day
Yvonne Girard	June 1	1910	1 day
Hormidas Flammand	Aug. 12	1910	8 months
Denis Theroux	Sept. 7	1910	7 months
Josias Cuilerier	Sept. 10	1910	1 day
Marie Ange Brault	Feb. 24	1911	1 month
George Drolet	Mar. 3	1911	8 months
Emile Gauthier	July 11	1911	2 yrs.
Henry Fontaine	May 28	1911	3 yrs.
Marie Lafond	July 12	1911	35 yrs.
Alphonse Foisy	Mar. 3	1911	1 day
Gustave Espie	Dec. 19	1911	3 months
Leonard Girard	Dec. 19	1911	3 months
Louis Espie	Mar. 16	1912	39 yrs.
Vitaline Ouellette	Apr. 15	1912	44 yrs.
Roland Cloutier	July 12	1912	1 day
Valeda Lavallee	Sept. 1	1912	5 months
Donalda Lavallee	Sept. 9	1912	5 months
Jeanne Alarie	Dec. 7	1912	1 day
Andre Jallot	Mar. 8	1913	8 months
Clementine Simon	Apr. 5	1913	23 yrs.
Lea Bourget	Apr. 16	1913	25 yrs.
Rose Anna Foisy	May 10	1913	3 yrs.
Rosarie Lapierre	July 4	1913	1 month
Rosalie Henly	Aug. 25	1913	10 months
Elaine Farley	Sept. 28	1913	6 yrs.
Wilfred Robinson	Oct. 15	1913	5 months
Henriet Drolet	Apr. 21	1914	8 months

Sophie Gallant	May 17	1914	10 months
Romeo Lafreniere	Oct. 24	1914	—
Elzear Chailler	Feb. 28	1915	1 day
Julien Brosseau	Dec. 15	1915	
Joseph Roberge	Dec. 24	1915	1 day
Rene Lefebre	Apr. 22	1916	1 day
Helene Sirois	Aug. 16	1916	2 yrs.
Andre Poulin	July 5	1916	2 days
Simone Theroux	Sept. 10	1916	8 months
Rose Alma Theroux	Dec. 14	1916	3 days
Rose Desmanches (Roberge)	Jan. 30	1917	52 yrs.
Norma Brosseau	Apr. 19	1917	2 months
Edmond Brosseau	Sept. 24	1917	74 yrs.
Raymond Brosseau	Oct. 23	1917	16 months
Laura Roberge	Oct. 27	1917	2 yrs.
Solphie Laplante	Jan. 16	1918	16 yrs.
Joseph Aucoin	Oct. 14	1918	1 hr.
Henrie Laboucane	Nov. 19	1918	1 day
Joseph Brosseau	Jan. 6	1919	1 month
Abel Girard	Oct. 11	1920	88 yrs.
Albert Theroux	Aug. 6	1920	9 months
F. Xavier Brosseau	Aug. 26	1920	78 yrs.
John B. Green	Sept. 8	1920	67 yrs.
Joseph Boutell	June 11	1920	1 hour
Marie Girard	Mar. 6	1921	1 month
Joseph Grenier	May 16	1922	56 yrs.
Jean Simon	June 12	1922	1 month
John Green	Feb. 25	1924	92 yrs.
Arthur Lavallee	Mar. 21	1924	21 yrs.
Ferrier Ouellette	July 21	1924	71 yrs.
Marie Louise Girard	Oct. 31	1924	87 yrs.
Simon Lapierre	Jan. 30	1925	53 yrs.
Sarah Labreque	Jan. 8	1926	56 yrs.
Irene Roberge	May 28	1926	6 yrs.
Leo Lessard	May 28	1926	2 yrs.
Rosana Poirier	July 26	1926	1 month
Alphonse St. Hilaire	Jan. 14	1927	64 yrs.
M. Therese Brosseau	June 28	1927	1 day
George Legree	Apr. 6	1927	58 yrs.
Aline Pelleteir Ouellette	Jan. 7	1928	76 yrs.
Roger Grenier	Sept. 21	1928	20 yrs.
Edward Roberge	Nov. 7	1929	74 yrs.
Jeanette Labreque	Mar. 8	1929	14 yrs.
Catherine Lesperance Lavallee	July 11	1929	88 yrs.
Fernando Lord	June 15	1929	39 yrs.
Raoul Regnier	June 10	1929	32 yrs.
Robert Bradshaw	Aug. 30	1929	39 ys.
W. Rheaume	Mar. 31	1930	68 yrs.
Marie Rose Sirois	Aug. 12	1930	14 yrs.
George Gladu	Sept. 6	1931	3 yrs.
Ambroise Grey	June 6	1931	60 yrs.
Louis Rioux	Oct. 30	1931	71 yrs.
Marguerite Lapierre	Sept. 10	1932	78 yrs.
Herman Didier	Dec. 12	1932	18 yrs.
Laura Moisan	Dec. 19	1932	44 yrs.
Elie Theroux	Feb. 10	1933	2 months
Victor Venne	July 6	1933	17 months
Joseph Venne	Mar. 9	1934	2 days
Marie Venne	Mar. 13	1934	7 days
George Ladouceur	Sept. 6	1934	24 yrs.
Josette Grey	Dec. 16	1934	65 yrs.
Victor Vincent	July 1	1935	21 yrs.
Clara Rheaume	Apr. 13	1935	72 yrs.
Julia Brosseau	Oct. 24	1935	91 yrs.
Celina St. Hilaire	Nov. 25	1935	70 yrs.
Gilles Gannache	Dec. 18	1935	
W.R. Snychuck	Mar. 20	1936	10 yrs.
Rudolph Coutu	July 4	1936	6 months
Lorainne Desrosiers	Mar. 26	1936	3 yrs.
Elzear Moisan	June 27	1937	88 yrs.
Yvonne Theroux	Oct. 31	1937	14 months
Hector Poirier	Dec. 16	1937	62 yrs.
Edna Theroux	Aug. 3	1938	10 months
Rene Theroux	Mar. 19	1940	7 months
Robert Bosse	Apr. 17	1940	7 months
Marie Theroux	Aug. 17	1940	34 yrs.
Ovila Vincent	Oct. 24	1940	64 yrs.
Hilda Rioux	Nov. 11	1940	
Julie Paré	Mar. 12	1940	66 yrs.
Thomas Callahan	May 6	1942	68 yrs.
John Oberkish	Oct. 20	1943	1 hr.
Neomie Grenier	June 29	1943	78 yrs.
Victoria Lemay	Dec. 13	1944	85 yrs.
Joseph Rioux	Jan. 2	1944	51 yrs.
Tancrede Lessard	Jan. 5	1949	49 yrs.
Alphonse Ouellette	Mar. 16	1949	76 yrs.
Jean Marie Ouellette	Feb. 25	1950	22 yrs.
Viviane Morneau	Oct. 29	1950	2 months
Madeleine Johnson	Aug. 17	1953	48 yrs.
Lucie Brosseau (Coutu)	Mar. 1	1954	
Martin Lavallee	Sept. 10	1955	78 yrs.
Josephine Laflamme	Aug. 6	1956	
Elizabeth Lavallee	Dec. 12	1956	76 yrs.
Raymond Coutu	Oct. 19	1957	7 yrs.
Laurent Lavallee	July 22	1958	48 yrs.
Helene Grenier	Sept. 12	1960	57 yrs.
Joseph Brosseau	Apr. 30	1965	82 yrs.
Joseph Theroux	Mar. 24	1966	74 yrs.
Monique Brosseau	Sept. 8	1967	4 yrs.
Bernadette Theroux	Dec. 12	1970	71 yrs.
Emilia Coutu	July 17	1971	83 yrs.
Joseph Guy Ouellette	July 24	1971	3 months
Daniel Ouellette	Nov. 6	1972	18 months
Laurent Coutu	Nov. 31	1973	53 yrs.
Bernard Wirackowski	Apr. 12	1975	80 yrs.
Rene Robinson	Aug. 9	1976	61 yrs.
Herve Coutu	Apr. 22	1977	66 yrs.
Gaston Bachelet	Aug. 10	1978	90 yrs.
Henri Coutu	Oct. 21	1978	68 yrs.
Sylva Bachelet	Dec. 30	1978	78 yrs.

LIST OF ELECTORS, 1934

Electoral District of Vegreville, Rural Polling Division No. 79 Duvernay comprising section 13 to 17 inclusive, 20 to 29 inclusive, 32 and those portions of sections 33 to 39 inclusive, which lie to the south and west of the Saskatchewan River, in township 55, range 12.

1 Archambeau, Joe - Labourer - Duvernay
2 Archambeau, Mrs. Joe - Duvernay
3 Arkell, Reginald - Barber, Duvernay
4 Antoniuk, John - Farmer - Two Hills
5 Antoniuk, Mrs. John - Two Hills
6 Belter, Miss Ester - Spinster - Duvernay
7 Barnes, Albert J. - Barber, Duvernay
8 Barnes, Mrs. Albert - Postmaster - Duvernay
9 Chrapko, Mrs. John - Two Hills
10 Chrapko, John - Farmer - Two Hills
11 Chrapko, Sam - Farmer - Two Hills
12 Chrapko, Mrs. Sam - Two Hills
13 Cote, Donat - Labourer - Duvernay
14 DesRosiers,Joe - Farmer - Duvernay
15 DesRosiers, Mrs. Joe - Duvernay
16 DesRosiers, Mrs. Elphege - Duvernay
17 DesRosiers, Wilfred - Labourer - Duvernay
18 DesResiers, Eugene - Labourer - Duvernay
19 DesRosiers, Mrs. Eugene - Duvernay
20 Espie, Bernard - Labourer - Duvernay
21 Elko, Andrew - Farmer - Musidora
22 Elko, Mrs. Andrew - Musidora
23 Gratton, Ernest - Labourer - Duvernay
24 Gratton, Mrs. Ernest - Duvernay
25 Gartka, Albert - Farmer - Two Hills
26 Gartka, Mrs. Albert - Two Hills
27 Honcharuk, Mark - Labourer - Duvernay
28 Hellerud, Robert - Farmer - Duvernay
29 Hellerud, Mrs. Robert - Duvernay
30 Humeniuk, Mrs. Wasyl - Widow - Duvernay
31 Henderson, Mrs. Howard - Widow - Duvernay
32 Henderson, Steward - Labourer - Duvernay
33 Henderson, Earl - Labourer - Duvernay
34 Henderson, Mrs. Earl - Duvernay
35 Hohol, Wasyl - Farmer - Duvernay
36 Hohol, Mrs. Wasyl - Duvernay
37 Kieryliuk, Andrew - Farmer - Two Hills
38 King, Ernest - Farmer - Duvernay
39 Kupchanko, John - Farmer - Duvernay
40 Kupchanko, Mrs. John - Duvernay
41 Labreque, Sifroy - Gentleman - Duvernay
42 Lapierre, Francois - Gentleman - Duvernay
43 Lapierre, Frank - Blacksmith - Duvernay
44 Lapierre, Jeremie - Farmer - Duvernay
45 Lapierre, Mrs. Jeremie - Duvernay
46 Lapierre, Philias - Labourer - Duvernay
47 McLaren, Donald - Farmer - Two Hills
48 McLaren, John - Farmer - Two Hills
49 Mihalchon, Arthur - Farmer - Duvernay
50 Milhalchan, Mrs. Arthur - Duvernay
51 Mascinch, Waldemer - Teacher - Duvernay
52 Moisan, Elzear - Duvernay
53 Nikiforuk, John - Farmer - Two Hills
54 Nikiforuk, Mrs. John - Two Hills
55 Pare, Henry - Farmer - Duvernay
56 Pare, Mrs. Henry - Duvernay
57 Pare, David - Labourer - Duvernay
58 Pare, Ernest - Labourer - Duvernay
59 Pare, Joseph - Labourer - Duvernay
60 Palahniuk, Kost - Farmer - Duvernay
61 Palahniuk, Mrs. Kost - Duvernay
62 Padletsky, Steve - Farmer - Duvernay
63 Padletsky, Anton - Farmer - Duvernay
64 Padletsky, Mrs. Anton - Duvernay
65 Padletsky, Peter - Labourer - Duvernay
66 Padletsky, William - Labourer - Duvernay
67 Padletsky, Paul - Labourer - Duvernay
68 Rheaume, William - Gentleman - Duvernay
69 Rheaume, Mrs. William - Duvernay
70 Rioux, Mrs. Louis - Widow - Duvernay
71 Rioux, Joseph - Farmer - Duvernay
72 Rioux, Mrs. Joseph - Duvernay
73 Straughan, Bert - Hotelman - Duvernay
74 Straughan, Mrs. Bert - Duvernay
75 Slivinsky, Metro - Farmer - Duvernay
76 Slivinsky, Mrs. Metro - Duvernay
77 Sidor, Peter - Farmer - Duvernay
78 Sidor, Pilimon - Labourer - Duvernay
79 Stefaniuk, Mrs. Wasyl - Widow - Duvernay
80 Sidor, Metro - Labourer - Duvernay
81 Sirois, John - Farmer - Duvernay
82 Shandro, John - Farmer - Duvernay
83 Shandro, Mrs. John - Duvernay
84 Showkoplas, John - Farmer - Duvernay
85 Showkoplas, Mrs. John - Duvernay
86 Theroux, Joe - Farmer - Duvernay
87 Theroux, Mrs. Joe - Duvernay
88 Theroux, Moise - Farmer - Duvernay
89 Theroux, Mrs. Moise - Duvernay
90 Theroux, Basile - Gentleman - Duvernay
91 Theroux, Mrs. Basile - Duvernay
92 Vallee, Alcime - Farmer - Duvernay
93 Vallee, Mrs. Alcime - Duvernay
94 Whiteford, Charles - Labourer - Duvernay
95 Yaremchuk, Wasyl - Farmer - Duvernay
96 Yaremchuk, Mrs. Wasyl - Duvernay
97 Zaporozan, Mrs. Wm. - Widow - Duvernay
98

EXCERPTS FROM THE JOURNAL "LE COURIER DE L'OUEST" 1908 - 1911 — DUVERNAY

March 23/08

Mr. J. Desrosiers and Mr. Ouellette called a meeting in Mr. Lambert's hotel to discuss the urgent need for a creamery co-operative company. A motion was passed authorizing $50.00 to incorporate the company. $3000 was collected from interested parties. Mr. Desrosiers, Ouellette, Boileau, Cuillerier and Gray were in charge.

April 8/08

Louis Rioux and Clarence Levesque decided to homestead in Duvernay instead of continuing to St. Paul des Metis or Moose Lake. Their intentions to operate sheep or cattle ranches were considered a good idea.

April 8/08

The exploration for a ranch was not enough for Mr. Rioux. He immediately began the construction of a store and residence on land purchased from Mr. Mathias Theroux.

April 18/08

Mr. Boileau, at the request of the people, purchased a parcel of land in the heart of Duvernay, for a library and an information bureau. The latter would give new settlers information regarding the sites most suited to them.

April 11/08

Mr. Desrosiers and others took advantage of the last days of snow to haul the logs to be made into lumber for the construction of the creamery and other buildings proposed for this year.

April 23/08

Facing Brosseauville, The village of Duvernay is building on sections 26 & 27-55-12-W4th, on land belonging to Mr. Mathias Theroux. The road allowance separating these sections will become First Avenue.

April 27/08

Construction of a church became a necessity for these early settlers who were mostly Roman Catholics. Both villages wanted it. Logs in Brosseauville could be sawed mechanically and in Duvernay by steam engine. The diocese decided they didn't have two priests for two parishes so close together. It would become a burden on the people.

April 27/08

More new settlers are taking homesteads in the area. In Duvernay we have Mr. Boileau's residence, Mr. Rioux's store and a boarding house built by Mr. Mathias Theroux. Sometimes the hotels were full and were too expensive for the families travelling through so they took rooms in the boarding house. These were furnished with beds and an oven, like in the immigrant houses set up by the government. Some of these settlers were: Courchene, Lessard, Poulin, Pigeon, Dube, Beauvais, Ledoux, Martin, Vincent, Poissan, Leroux, Boisvert, Bisson, Joly, Fournel, Fauthier, Corbierre, they were going to St. Paul des Metis, Cold Lake or Castor Lake.

1908

Mr. Boileau was Justice of the Peace.

Jan. 22/09

The creamery was incorporated under the name of Duvernay Dairy Association. The directors were:

President ..... Arthur Drolet
Vice-President ..... Eugene Beland
Directors .. Adelard Bechard, Matthias Theroux, Joseph Desrosiers, Eugene Quellete
Scrutineers .... John Brunelle and Azarie Venne

Feb. 20/09

The first meeting of the Duvernay Dairy Association was held according to Act #8 which stated that an association must call its first meeting within one month of the election of directors.

May 15/09

The Duvernay School was destroyed by fire. The origin of the fire is unknown.

May 1909

It is prospected that a railroad will be built through Duvernay. Mr. Boileau is the land agent.

Feb. 3/10

Mr. Rioux has purchased the store from Mr. Curvan who is returning to California.

July 21/10

Mr. Dostaler and Dubeau Lambert have opened a general store under the name of Duvernay Trading Company.

July 1910

The creamery is in full operation under the management of F.N. Therien recently arrived from Quebec.

July 1910

It is certain that a railroad will be built through Duvernay.

June 1911

The price of land varies from $10 to $15 an acre. The purchaser must pay $300 cash and $300 a year for 6 years. This was approximately $2160 for a farm of 160 acres.

Fall 1913

Due to the fact it took too long to get the fresh cream to the creamery when the roads were bad and sometimes could not deliver on the same day the milking was done and in the summer months when most of the cream was coming in, it was hard to keep the butter from melting before it was delivered to the main market which was at the railhead at Vegreville. So it was decided by the Co-Op board to close the business for the time being, but it never did re-open again.

EXCERPTS FROM THE JOURNAL "LE COURIER DE L'OUEST! 1907 - 1915 BROSSEAU

Aug. 8/07

Brosseau goes through a period of progress.

Mr. Alphonse St. Hilaire is building a spacious hotel.

Mr. Edmond Brosseau moved his store closer to the crossing. He built a house near the store for his son, Edmond Jr. who had married Adele Delisle of St. Albert.

Mr. Leonard Gadbois who had a jewellery store in Vegreville has decided to build a shop in Brosseau.

Mr. Horace Gauthier built a blacksmith shop and residence in 1907.

Mr. Duquette who had a livery barn in Duvernay has decided to build one in Brosseau.

Since the nice weather several sportsmen from Vermilion and Vegreville have come to Big Fish Lake for holidays. This lake is good for fishing, swimming and canoeing. Mr. Tourville has a summer resort on SW¼ 17-56-11-W4th.

Aug. 8/07

Miss Blanche Lafond started teaching in the Big Fish School of Foisy.

We were sorry to hear of the tragedy which struck the Azarie Venne family. They lost their 15 year old daughter.

Aug. 8/08

Mr. Roy, carpenter and contractor is working in Brosseau.

April 3/08

The ice has left the river and the ferry is in opertion. Mr. St. Hilaire has built 12 small houses which are occupied by renters.

April /08

A rectory is being built.

June 7/08

The cornerstone of the church was blessed by Msgr. Emile Legal of St. Albert. Father Clermont was present.

June 24/08

Saint John the Baptiste Day. Father Chanoire of Edmonton representing Bishop Legal blessed the church. The steeple and bell are still missing.

June 28/08

Messieurs Brosseau have received a large assortment of merchandise. Business is getting better all the time.

July 9/08

Mr. St. Hilaire will be opening his Richelieu Hotel this week. He has just arrived from Edmonton with a complete stock of new liquor.

July 9/08

Mr. Duquette has purchased Joe Poulin's homestead for $14 an acre.

July /08

Mr. Louis Chagnon has gone to Quebec for a visit. He will return next year.

Mr. Lafreniere and family have arrived from Quebec to settle here.

July 9/08

Mr. Clement, postmaster of Vegreville, has received a notice from the Department of Post Office that the mail service to Brosseau and St. Paul des Metis will continue.

Jan. /09

Three sawmills are in the area to saw lumber for the new settlers.

Aug. /08

A plea was made to Mr. Walker, our MLA, to repair the road from Brosseau to St. Paul des Metis.

Aug. 20/08

A telephone line will reach Brosseau Crossing next week. It will finally reach Moose Lake if the settlers can supply more logs.

Feb. 3/10

Municipal elections were held. The results were as follows:

Duvernay ..... Mr. Lapierre
Brosseau ..... Mr. Ambroise Gray
Lafond ..... Mr. F.X. Desaulniers

The price of farm products is:

Potatoes ..... 50¢ a bushel
Lard ..... 10-12¢ a pound
Oats ..... 30-40¢ a bushel

May 1/10

A retreat was preached in the St. Laurent Church by the Franciscan Fathers of North Edmonton. To close the retreat on May 1st a cross was erected in the center of the cemetary.

May 20/10

New settlers are arriving: Mr. Dupuis, D. Poissant, L. Dupius, Ray Dupuis, N. Letourneau, Journault, A. Boucher, Fraser.

Feb. 9/11

We still hope to build a convent.

Feb. 9/11

A concert and supper was given to raise money for the church. Two young ladies, Agnes Lecerf and Marguerite Boileau, were contestants for queen. Agnes won. The prize was a big doll.

June 15/11

Many children were given the chance to make their first Holy Communion. Father Leduc was the priest.

Sept. 4/11

Bishop Legal came to confirm 40 children. Following the ceremony dinner was served in the grove behind the church.

1913

Many concerts were given to raise money for the church. Mrs. J.B. Vincent played the piano and Eugene Ouellette the violin. Actors who participated were: Eugene Ouellette, Joe Rioux, Albina Despins, Adrien Ouellette, F. Boileau, Dr. J. Charles Hardy and Mr. Alphonse St. Hilaire.

An organ was raffled and Mrs. Boileau was the Lucky winner.

July 9/13

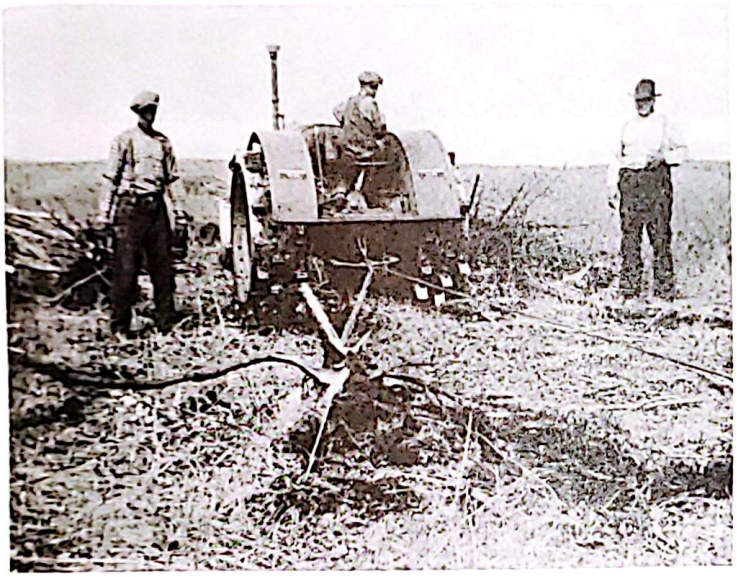
A retreat will be preached by Rev. R.P. Prince. People were invited from Lafond, Beauvallon and Ben's Lake. In those days People travelled far to hear the voice of a priest.

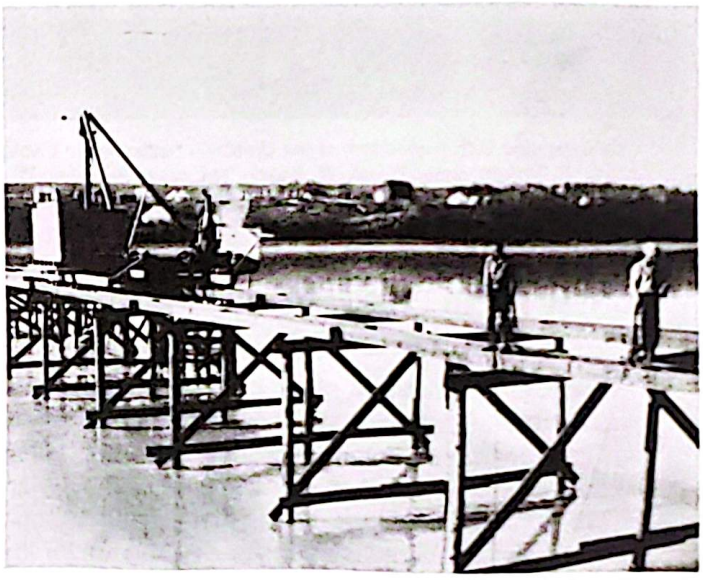
Jan. 4/15

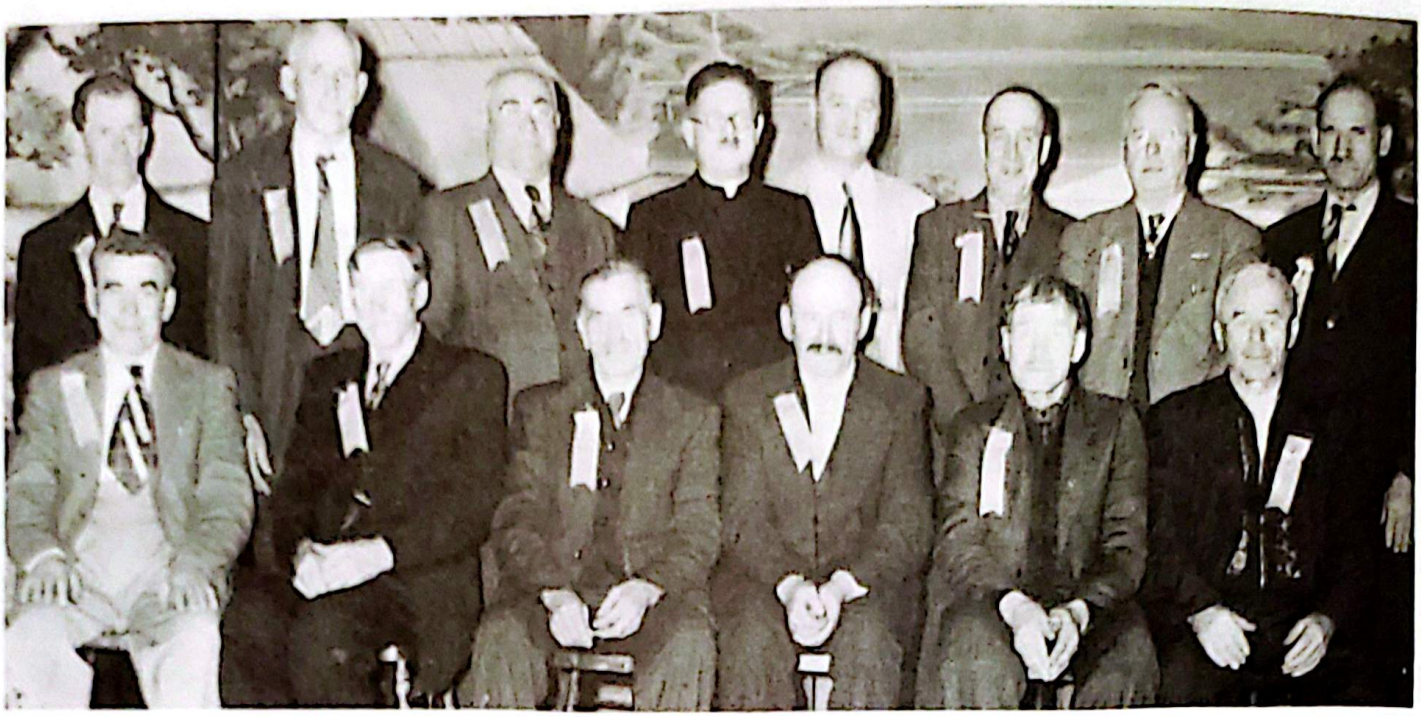
Elections for councillors in Division #2:
P.A. Coutu was elected by acclamation.
Thomas Clark Defeated W.C. Smith by 4 votes.

Jan. 11/15

Dr. J. Charles Hardy was married to Marie Anne St. Hilaire. The reception and dance were held in the Richelieu Hotel.







Celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Ukrainian Settlement in Canada in Musidora, Alberta. Standing from left to right are: William Mandrusiak, S. Kryviak, N. Hrabec, Rev. M. Flak, M. Ponich, M.L.A., A. Kolisniak, W. Kotyshyn, L. Boida and S. Sorochan. Sitting from left to right: M.P. Elkow, I.H. Ilkiw, G. Kshyk, N. Chomik, P. Kachmar and J. Hryhoriak.

MUSIDORA DISTRICT HONOR THEIR PIONEERS

by Olga Kachmar

Musidora, like many other districts, undertook to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Ukrainian Settlement in Canada. At the Iwan Kotliarewski Association meeting a committee of its President Mike Kachmar, Dmytro Bohaychuk, Mike P. Ilkiw, Safat Lyzanchuk, and John Kshyk were elected to arrange for a program for the celebration to be held in Musidora on Sunday, October 18, 1951.

In the morning High Mass was held in the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Musidora. Rev. M. Flak officiated. It was followed by a Memorial Service for the deceased pioneers of the district. The second part of the program was held in the National Hall. At the entrance Halia Kshyk, Halia Kostuik and Nadia Bohaychuk, in their Ukrainian costumes, pinned celebration ribbons on guests entering the hall. After everyone was seated at the tables Rev. Flak said grace. A luscious banquet was served by the Musidora Women's Association.

At the conclusion of the banquet the pioneers were ushered to designated chairs on the stage and presented with pioneer mementos. The afternoon program began with Mr. Mike Kachmar welcoming the pioneers and guests. He then turned the program over to Mr. Ponich to be the Master of Ceremonies. Mr. Ponich introduced the pioneers and asked Rev. M. Flak to speak. Rev. Flak spoke about the cultural and religious achievements of the Ukrainians in Canada. In conclusion he congratulated the pioneers and wished them many happy and healthy years. The guests responded by singing the traditional Ukrainian "Na Mnohee Leeta".

The Master of Ceremonies then asked the honored pioneers to reminisce about some of their experiences. Mr. L. Boida said that on his arrival in Canada he settled on a homestead in the Musidora district where he spent over forty years of his life. When too old to work he retired in the Town of Two Hills. Mr. William Kotyshyn of Myrnam in his brief message spoke of the progress the Ukrainians made during the past sixty years. He praised the pioneers for their efforts in building the institutes, churches and cathedrals, colleges and National Homes. In conclusion he appealed to the younger generation to carry on the traditions and culture of their fathers. Dr. Lopatniuk of Myrnam spoke on the progress made by the Ukrainians in the political arena. He pointed out that William Hawreliak was elected by a great majority as mayor of the City of Edmonton and Mr. Starchewsky (Starr), like Mr. Hawreliak is mayor of Oshawa, Ontario. He also recognized the Ukrainian-Canadian Ilia Kiriak, author of the book "Sons of Soil". Other pioneers that spoke briefly were N. Hrabec, Andrew Kolisniak, William Mandrusiak, Steve Kryviak and John Hryhoriak. Mr. M.P. Elkow, during his closing remarks informed the guests that a plaque to commemorate the 60th anniversary of Ukrainian Settlement in Canada was placed in the Manitoba Legislative Building.

To conclude the program committee chairman M. Kachmar thanked Mr. Ponich for being the Master of Ceremonies. He thanked the participants of the program and all those who turned out in such large numbers to honor the pioneers. The program concluded by singing the Ukrainian National Anthem "Sche Ne Vmerla Ukraina" and "God Save the King".

The Iwan Kotliarewski Association of Musidora celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Ukrainian Settlement in Canada honored its pioneers and at the same time acknowledged that these pioneers gave foundtion for our organized life according to the ideals they prepared for us.

WHEAT PRICES 1919 TO 1979

Crop year — Average price at the terminals basis #1 Northern Fort William

Crop year			Price received
1919-1920	Canadian Wheat Board only		$2.65
1920-21	Open market-Grain exchange		1.99
1921-22	Open market-Grain exchange		1.30
1922-23	Open market-Grain exchange		1.10
1923-24	Open market-Grain exchange		1.07
1923(Oct.)	Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba Wheat Pools organized.		
1924-25	Open markets and Wheat Pools		1.60½
1925-26	Open markets and Wheat Pools		1.45
1926-27	Open markets and Wheat Pools		1.42
1927-28	Open markets and Wheat Pools		1.42¼
1928-29	Open markets and Wheat Pools		1.18½
1929-30	Open markets and Wheat Pools		1.19½
	Open market only-Grain exchange — Price of #2 dry		
1930-31	Open market only-Grain exchange		.43
1931-32	Open market only-Grain exchange		.37
1932-33	Open market only-Grain exchange		.34
1933-34	Open market only-Grain exchange		.44
1934-35	Open market only-Grain exchange		.60
1935-36	Open market only-Grain exchange		.64
1936-37	Open market only-Grain exchange		1.02
1937-38	Open market only-Grain exchange		1.02
1938-39	Open market only-Grain exchange		.60
1939-40	Open market only-Grain exchange		.52
1940-41	Open market only-Wheat Board sets floor	.70	.56
1941-42	Open market only-Wheat Board sets floor	.70	.60
1942-43	Open market only-Wheat Board sets floor	.90	.74
1943-44	Wheat board Selling drop-Order in Council		1.10
1944-45	Wheat board Selling drop-Order in Council		1.23
1945-46	Wheat board Selling drop-Order in Council		1.55

Schedule of Canadian Wheat Board Payments for No. 1 Northern Wheat and No. 1 Canada Western Red Spring Wheat. Basis in store Thunder Bay or Vancouver. Crop years 1946-47 to 1978-79.

Crop Year	Total Realized Price[1] $ Per Tonne	Approximate price per bushel.	Crop Year	Total Realized Price[1] $ Per Tonne	Approximate price per bushel.
1946-47	67.39	$1.82	1963-64	72.54	1.96
1947-48	67.39	1.82	1964-65	69.34	1.87
1948-49	67.39	1.82	1965-66	73.38	1.95
1949-50	67.39	1.82	1966-67	73.01	1.97
1950-51	68.27	1.86	1967-68	66.65	1.80
1951-52	67.46	1.83	1968-69	62.46	1.68
1952-53	66.84	1.81	1969-70	61.73	1.65
1953-54	57.47	1.55	1970-71	61.40	1.64
1954-55	60.66	1.64	1971-72 *	58.64	1.58
1955-56	59.12	1.62	1972-73 *	79.14	2.13
1956-57	58.34	1.59	1973-74 *	168.21	4.54
1957-58	59.56	1.65	1974-75 *	164.39	4.43
1958-59	58.64	1.60	1975-76 *	146.28	3.95
1959-60	58.42	1.59	1976-77 *	117.15	3.11
1960-61	65.95	1.80	1977-78	120.30	3.29
1961-62	70.18	1.90	1978-79	160.53	4.34
1962-63	68.86	1.83			

Weiller & Williams Co. Ltd.
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EDMONTON STOCK YARDS

Office Phone 71211 - 71130

SALESMEN: LEE WILLIAMS, DON DANARD, LOUIE HENDEL
OFFICE: TOM FYFE, ALEX. MACKENZIE, JOHN HYDE

No. Hogs	Tattoo No.	Live Wt.	Dressed Wt.	Amount

Grade and Class		Weight	Price
A	140-170 Lbs		
	1 135-179 Lbs		
B	2 125-134 Lbs		
	3 170-185 Lbs		
C			
D			
E	Ridglings Physical Injury (Cripples)		
	Lights 110 and Under		
	Heavies 180-195 Lbs.		
	Extra Heavy 196-215 Lbs.		
	Heavy 216 Lbs. & Up		
	Stags		
	Sows	2 670	1100 7370
	Total Carcasses	2 670	Gross Amount 7370

Sold For Account Of
Hector Cantin
Bassano

Edmonton, Alta. Jan 24 1956

No. 166

DISBURSEMENTS NET PROCEEDS

Truck Charges	
Advance	
Net Amount of Cheque	
TO	

Date	SOLD TO

DEDUCTIONS

Edmonton Stock Yards	Transit Insurance	Commission	Total	Net Proceeds
55	1	100	155	7215

SHIPPER OR TRUCKER

SLAUGHTER DATE Jan. 30/56

TATTOO NO SN60 | NO. HOGS 14 | LIVE WEIGHT 2640

STATEMENT OF SETTLEMENT

HOG CARCASS GRADING CERTIFICATE

GOVERNMENT PREMIUM $ 9

INDIVIDUAL CARCASS DESCRIPTION	GRADE	NO. OF CARCASSES	WEIGHT RANGE	SHRUNK WEIGHT	PRICE PER 100 LBS.	AMOUNT
	A	1	140/170	1/6	2000	24 20
	B1	7	135/179	1032	1400	196 08
	B2		125/134			
	B3	6	170/185	907	1700	154 23
	C		120/185			
	D					
	LIGHTS		110 DOWN			
	HEAVIES		180/195			
	EXTRA HEAVY		196/215			
	PHYSICAL INJURY		216 UP			
	RIDGLINGS					
	STAGS					
	SOWS 1					
	SOWS 2					

A 1/2
B, 15 A F
136
14 F
15 F
147 P
146 P
154 T
163 F 1
156 F 1
138 F 1 TP
135 1 TH
150 TP
140 TP
150 TP

TOTAL NO 14 | TOTAL WEIGHT 2077 | TOTAL VALUE 378 11

NO. CONDEMNED AND REJECTED INCLUDED IN THE ABOVE

FREIGHT LBS @
TRUCKING LBS @
TRANSIT INSURANCE
YARDAGE
YARD FIRE INSURANCE
COMMISSION @
PRO RATING

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR CLEARING & DEDUCTIONS

LOT BY | CAR BY | INVOICE

SERIAL NO OF WARRANT V562963

ADVANCES | CHEQUE NO | AMOUNT DUE

SALES AGENCY Weiller & Williams

SLAUGHTERED BY ALBERTA MEAT COMPANY LIMITED, VANCOUVER, B.C.

FORM BB 70

LARRY'S PRODUCE

EGG & POULTRY DEALER

TWO HILLS ALBERTA
A - 34 PHONE 475

PRODUCER W Cantin

ADDRESS

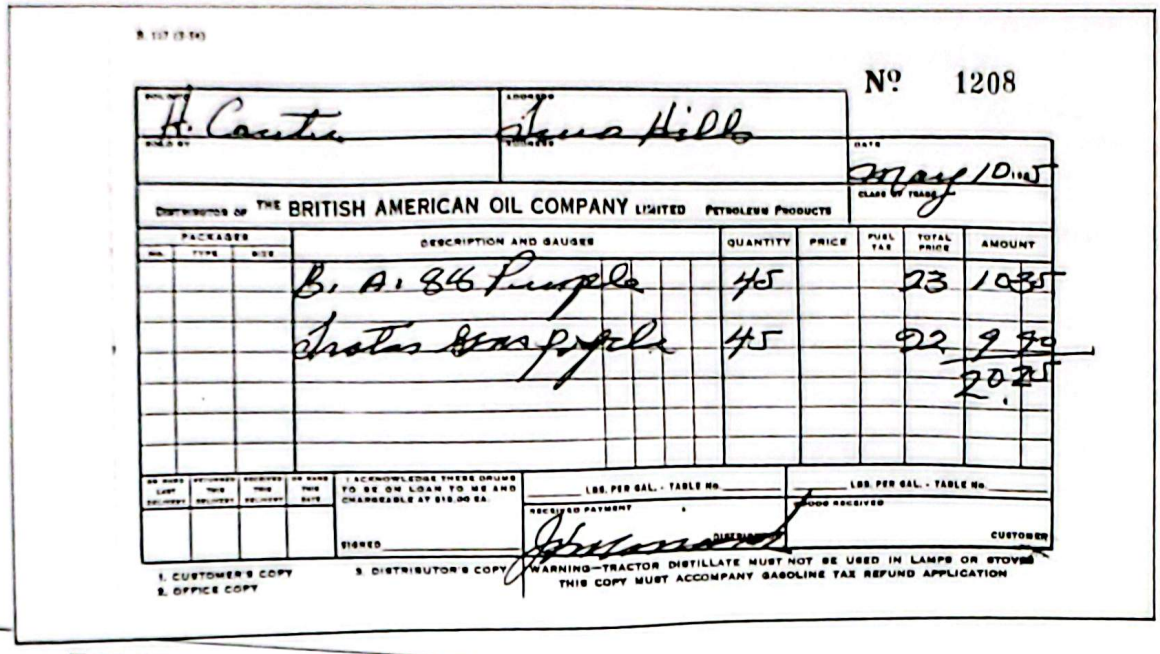
DATE Dec 24/56

DESCRIPTION	DOZ.	ODDS	PRICE	AMOUNT
A LARGE SIZE	34	5	29	9 85
A MEDIUM SIZE	7	1	23	1 63
A SMALL SIZE				
GRADE BEES	1		23	31
GRADE CEES			19	02
GRADE CRAX	1		11	10
BAD		6		
SHORT				
TOTAL	44			12 04

REMARKS PLUS FREIGHT

TOTAL

No. 7678



Nº 1208

H. Coutu — Two Hills — May 10 1945

Distributor of THE BRITISH AMERICAN OIL COMPANY LIMITED Petroleum Products

Packages	Description and Gauges	Quantity	Price	Fuel Tax	Total Price	Amount
	B. A. 86 Purple	45		23		10 35
	Motor Gas Purple	45		22		9 90
						20 25

I ACKNOWLEDGE THESE DRUMS TO BE ON LOAN TO ME AND CHARGEABLE AT $15.00 EA.

Signed

Lbs. per gal. - Table No.

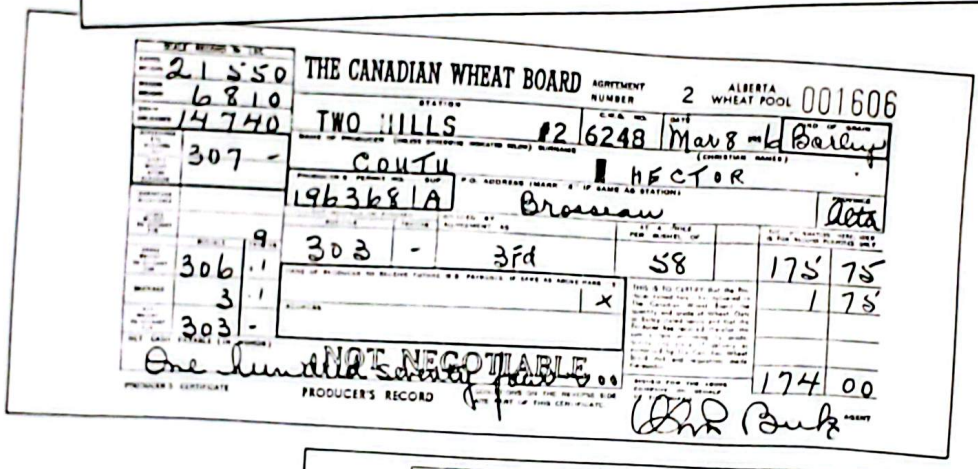
Received Payment — Distributor

Lbs. per gal. - Table No.

Goods Received — Customer

1. CUSTOMER'S COPY
2. OFFICE COPY
3. DISTRIBUTOR'S COPY

WARNING—TRACTOR DISTILLATE MUST NOT BE USED IN LAMPS OR STOVES
THIS COPY MUST ACCOMPANY GASOLINE TAX REFUND APPLICATION



THE CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD — Agreement Number 2 — Alberta Wheat Pool 001606

Scale Record: 21550 / 6810 / 14740

Station: Two Hills #2 | C.W.B. No. 6248 | Mar 8 1945 | Barley

Producer: Coutu | Hector

Permit No. 196368 A | P.O. Address: Brosseau | Alta

Bushels	Grade	At	Price per Bushel	Amount
303 -	3rd	58	175	75
			1	75
			174	00

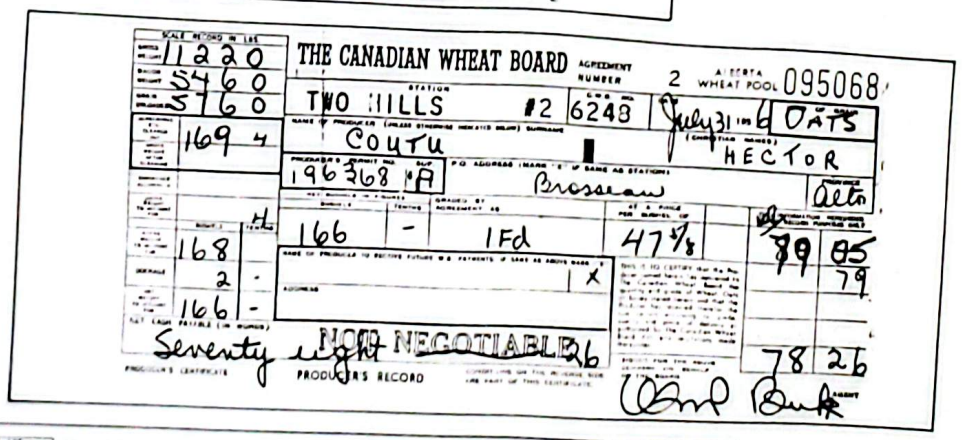
Scale Record: 307 - / 306 .1 / 3 .1 / 303 -

One hundred seventy four 00

NOT NEGOTIABLE

Producer's Certificate — Producer's Record

Agent



THE CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD — Agreement Number 2 — Alberta Wheat Pool 095068

Scale Record: 11220 / 5460 / 5760

Station: Two Hills #2 | C.W.B. No. 6248 | July 31 1945 | Oats

Producer: Coutu | Hector

Permit No. 196368 A | P.O. Address: Brosseau | Alta

Bushels	Grade	At	Price per Bushel	Amount
166 -	1 Fd	47 7/8	79	85
			79	
			78	26

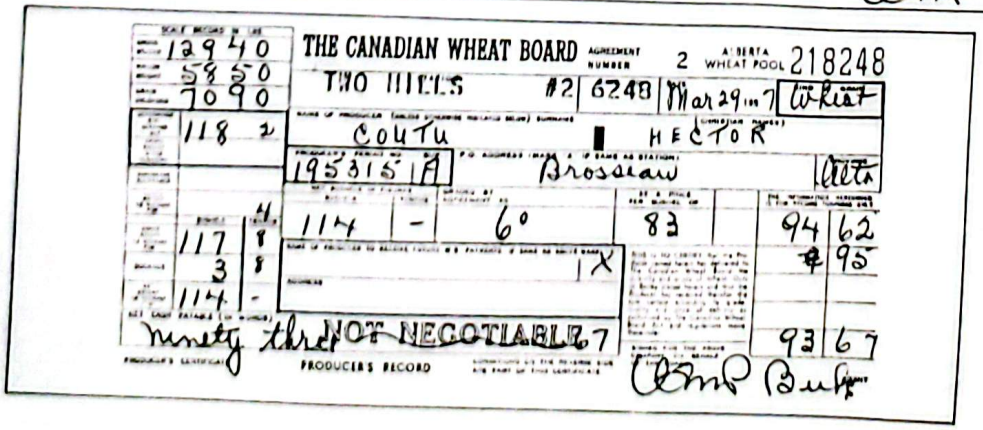
Scale Record: 169 4 H / 168 / 2 - / 166 -

Seventy eight

NOT NEGOTIABLE

Producer's Certificate — Producer's Record

Agent



THE CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD — Agreement Number 2 — Alberta Wheat Pool 218248

Scale Record: 12940 / 5850 / 7090

Station: Two Hills #2 | C.W.B. No. 6248 | Mar 29 1945 | Wheat

Producer: Coutu | Hector

Permit No. 195315 A | P.O. Address: Brosseau | Alta

Bushels	Grade	At	Price per Bushel	Amount
114 -	6	83	94	62
			95	
			93	67

Scale Record: 118 2 H / 117 / 3 / 114 -

Ninety three

NOT NEGOTIABLE

Producer's Certificate — Producer's Record

Agent

THE WAR YEARS

by Lucia Robinson

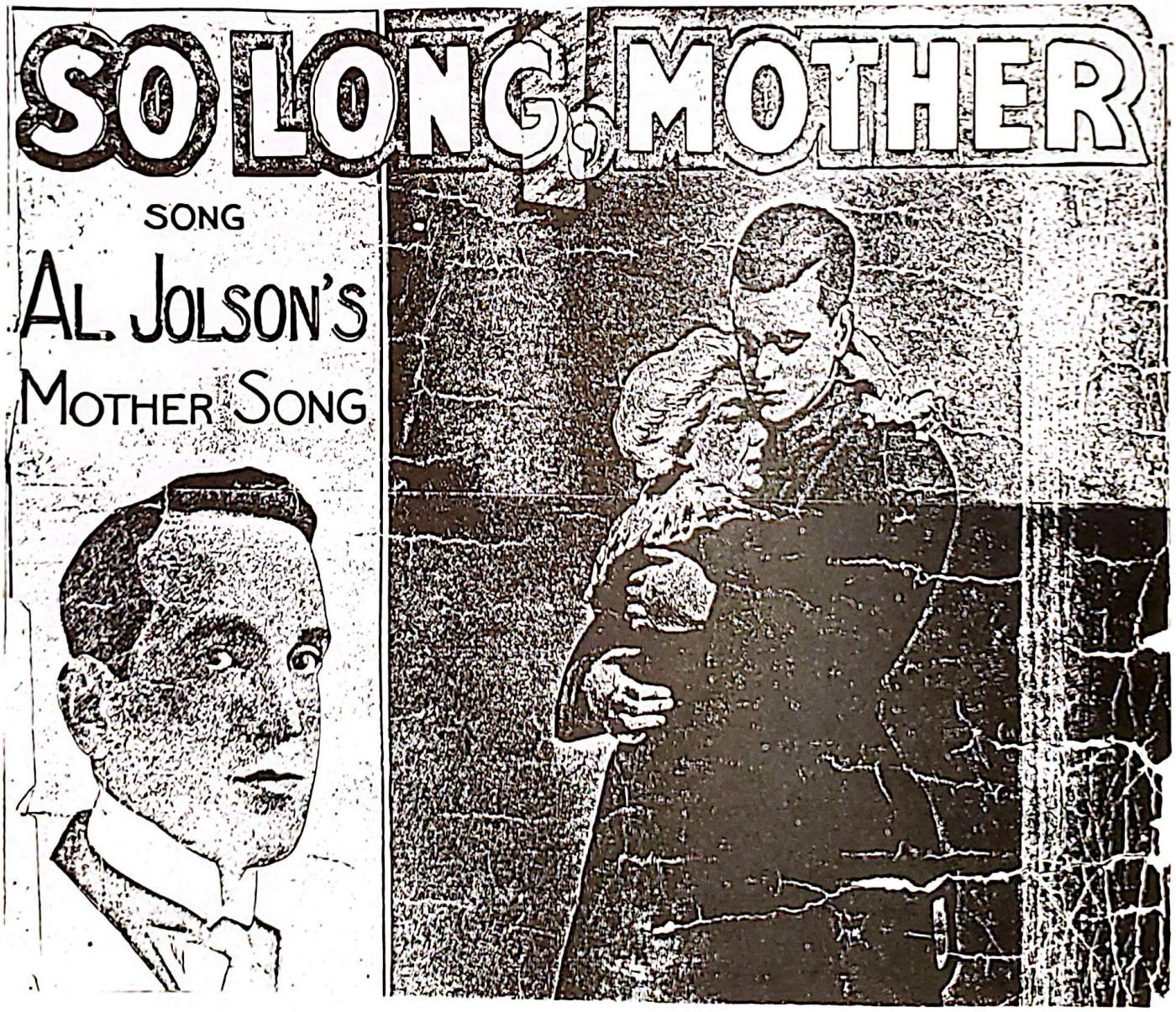
I do not propose to tell the detailed histories of the wars the Canadians were involved in, only enough to refresh the memories of the participants.

WORLD WAR I

In 1914, Germany thought she had the right to rule the world. She had built up her army, navy and industry so the other nations feared that she was strong enough to conquer them. They had formed the Triple of Germany, Austria and Italy on one hand, and an entente between Britain, France and Russia on the other. They promised mutual aid in case of war.

The spark that was indirectly responsible for the outbreak of the world conflagration was the assassination of Archduke Francis Ferdinand, heir to the throne of Hapsburg, in the village of Serajevo, Yugoslavia on June 28, 1914. The fatal bullet set up a chain reaction; Austria attached Serbia, Russia threatened Austria, Germany declared war on Russia, and France decided to help her ally. When Germany attacked Belgium, Britain declared war on August 4, 1914.

At that time, the law required that if Britain was at war, the other countries of the British Empire were also at war. In 1914, Canada had to make a decision. Her population was composed of many nationalities — British, French, Germans, Russians, Austrians etc. who might sympathize with either side, but, by then they all



World War I song expressing the sentiments of a soldier boy as he was leaving home for the battlefields of France in 1914-1918. This music sheet was found in a collection of music books belonging to Mrs. Joseph Brosseau, who had it since 1917. The lyrics were by Raymond and Gus Kahn; the music by Egbert Van Alstyne.

Chorus
So long my dear old la - dy don't you cry Just kiss your
p
f
grown up ba - by boy good - bye Some - where in France I'll be
dream-ing of you You and your dear eyes of blue
Come let me see you smile be - fore we part I'll throw a kiss to cheer your
dear old heart Dry the tear in your eye Don't you sigh don't you cr So long
cresc.
moth - er kiss your boy good - bye
1
2
bye
D.S.
sf
D.S.

considered themselves Canadians. The answer given by Prime Minister Robert Borden was: "Yes, Canadians will support Britain."

When the call came, volunteers assembled in Valcartiers, Quebec and in October sailed for Britain. Canada had no Navy, but in the Atlantic, Coastal patrols fought off German submarines to keep the sea lanes open. Canada had no Airforce but volunteers joined the British Royal Flying Corps. The Canadian war-ace William Bishop V.C. was credited with 72 German planes. Canada also sent the Canadian Railway Construction Corps, the Canadian Forestry Corps and the Canadian Medical Corps.

The soldiers fought the cold, wet, mud and vermin in the trenches waiting to go "over the top" to attack the enemy. The Canadians' first test in battle was on April 22, 1915 at Ypres where the Germans sent over the first poison gas ever used in warfare.

In June 1917, after three attempts, the Canadians captured Vimy Ridge following one week's bitter fighting.

Until 1917 the Canadian depended on volunteers but so many of the men were wounded, incapacitated, or killed that there were not enough replacements to fill the gaps. That year conscription became the hot and bitter election issue, but, the Military Service Act was passed and conscripts began to fill the lines.

Athanase and Dick Venne, 1917.

Barnes, Albert WWI.

Euclid Venne, 1919.

Robert Thomas Watt 49th Regiment.

Joseph Robert Tomlinson 19th Alberta Dragoons, 1914-1918.

Commander-in-chief bib-overall brigade. World War I — 1914-1918.

Frank Smith. 51st Battalion Expeditionary Forces.

War continued on all fronts. On the Western front we remember Mons, the Battle of the Marne, Verdun, Arras, Battle of the Aisne, Cambrai, Amiens, and the Hindenburg-Siegfried lines. On the Eastern Front the Russians invaded Germany, Galicia, Warsaw. The Gallipoli Campaign was ill-fated. The Balken Campaign saw Rumania refusing the Germans passage through their country. This was the time for Italy to join the Allies.

In April 1917 the USA entered the war on all fronts. President Wilson declared that "the object of joining the fight was to make the world safe for democracy and to establish a system under which the horrors of war on a grand scale would be abolished."

The big push was on. Soon the Germans began to weaken and retreat. The fighting at Chateau Thierry and in the Argonne got to be too much, so that the Germans gave up. On November 11, 1918 Armistice came into effect at 11:00 A.M. and the fighting was at an end. The long battle line which had, for four long years, roared came to a sudden state of quietitude. Trench warfare died away as a life goes out of the human body after a long strife with illness.

What a joy invaded the world. The "War to end all wars" was over!

WORLD WAR II

by Lucia Robinson

The League of Nations was an international organization established by the peace treaties ending World War I. It had been formed to keep peace in the world but it was not a success.

The Germans had been defeated but their army was not destroyed. Hitler became dictator and made it ready for war again. He seized Austria and Czechoslovakia. When they attacked Poland, Britain and France declared war on Germany in September 1939.

Here come the Canadians to fight for freedom once more!

This time, Canada was better prepared. She had an army, navy and airforce. Volunteers enlarged the three forces. By the end of 1939 they were training in Aldershot, England.

In the spring of 1940 Germany seized Denmark and Norway and their army was rolling, taking France, Holland and Belgium. In July the Italians, under their dictator Mussolini, joined the Germans.

Britain was still free but Germany intended to take her next. She had sent her army to help Belgium and it was caught on the beach at Dunkirk, but, "the little boats of Britain brought our men in safely home." Then the 'Battle of Britain" was in full earnest. German Airforce bombed the ports, naval bases, airdromes and the city of London. On September 18, 1940 "the sky seemed to be full of Spitfires and Hurricanes queueing up to attack the enemy." The German attempt to conquer Britain was a failure so the invasion fleet was called away.

As the Germans could not invade Britain they planned to starve her out. "Wolf packs" of submarines were sent out to attack supply ships. The Canadian Airforce and Canadian Navy kept them at bay.

The Canadian Navy built itself up until it had destroyers, cruisers, minesweepers, torpedo boats, subchasers and corvettes completely manned. Canadian ships fought alongside the British in the Battle of Norway and helped the Americans in the Battle of the Aleutians. They fought submarines in the English Channel and the Mediterranean Sea. They carried the Canadian Army to battle in Sicily and convoyed ships across the Atlantic.

The cargo ships of the Merchant Navy were as important and the men's work was just as hard and dangerous. "An army marches on its stomach" so food had to be delivered as well as the equipment needed. Many of these brave men lost their lives when attacked on the deep by submarines.

The Royal Canadian Air Force helped the Navy guard the coastal waters of Canada, fought over Dunkirk and in the Battle of Britain. Canada had air squadrons in Britain taking part in raids over occupied Europe. Just as important was their training the airmen of the whole Commonwealth — British, Canadians, Australians, New Zealanders as well as those from Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Free France, Holland, Poland, Norway and the U.S.A. The ground crews in the supply depots took care of the planes and their equipment. Then there was the Trans-Atlantic Ferry Command, where the pilots flew the new bombers from Canadian soil to Europe.

In 1940-41 Germany pushed through Yugoslavia and Greece. In June Hitler turned against Russia but he was stopped by desperate fighting at Leningrad, Stalingrad and Moscow.

Suddenly, like a thunderbolt from the sky, Japan attacked Pearl Harbor at about 7:55 a.m. on December 7, 1941. The U.S.A. promptly declared war on Japan. The Americans then joined the battle.

The Allies knew that to defeat Germany they must attack Europe. Hitler had fortified the west coast. The 2nd Division of the Canadian Army was sent to capture Dieppe, a fishing port on the French coast, but the Germans were ready. On August 19 the Canadians slipped across the channel but they were met by a terrific barrage and had to retreat. It turned out to be a disaster — a terrible sacrifice — but it taught the Allies a lesson — how to prepare for coastal assaults.

In the meantime the British and Americans with the Free French were driving the Germans out of Africa. They were then ready to push them out of Italy too. Part of the Canadian Army in Britain was sent out to help them. They arrived in time to invade Sicily. For the next two years the Canadians fought along the Italian roads — Otona, Moro River, Savio River, Monte Cassino, etc. Finally Mussolini gave up and armistice terms were signed on September 3, 1943.

Meanwhile the Allies were preparing their big assault on Western Europe. D-Day, June 6, 1944, saw them battling on the coast of Normandie — Cherbourg, Caen, Falaise, Argentan, etc. This time it was a successful venture.

The Allies were already driving the Germans out of Paris and on to Antwerp. Now the three armies began to drive the Germans back across the Rhine to their own country. They liberated Amsterdam, Holland and headed for Bremen and the Baltic Sea.

On April 30, 1945 Hittler committed suicide. On May 5, 1945 the surrender was signed. The war in Europe was over and May 8 was set as VE Day.

But the war in the Pacific was not over. On August 6, 1945 U.S. bombers dropped A-Bombs on Hiroshimo, Japan and in August on Nagasaki. In August Japan asked for peace. The formal surrender was signed on board the "Missouri" September 2, 1945. VJ Day was celebrated to mark the end of the war.

In this Pacific War the Canadians played two parts. They were overcome in Hong Kong where many were killed or imprisoned. They were also sent to help the Americans capture Attu and Kiska islands but, when they arrived to take them, the Japanese had already evacuated.

After VE Day the first thought was "We're going home". Some servicemen brought "War brides" while others were going to resume their lives at home. The government plan to help veterans had been set up. Huge hospitals were built for the wounded; university training for those who wanted it; loans for those who wanted to farm or to set up in business for themselves.

Canada was proud of its fighters! As Field Commander Montgomery said: "Canadians are damn good soldiers but are like orangutans when it came to discipline!"

Front Row — Dick Geleta, Alex Strilisky, W. Killick, Geo. Eglinski. Middle Row — Mulka Steve, Boychuk Melton, E. Sadoway, Thachuk, Pawliuk Mike, Shavchook P.M., John Forbes, Jerry Martin, Garnet Eng., B. Weir, B. Wirachowsky. Back Row — Fairbairn, Corp. Gray (R.C.M.P.), N. Miskiw, Geo. English, Eli Hunka, Walter Ewanishan.

Canadian Army Tug-O-War Champions 1941 — Aldershot, England. 2nd from left in middle row - George English. Extreme right in front row - Joseph Venne.

Rifle range — Aldershot, England. Garnet English, George English, Joseph Venne.

Maurice Laurent Gagné, R.C.A.F. from Lafond.

Private Germain Leonard Gagné, from Lafond.

Smith, William in Calgary. 1939-1945.

William (Bill) Smith M8522 Royal Edmonton 49th.

Michael Emes R.C.E., Chilliwack, B.C.

Venne, Joe taken in England, April, 1941.

Dr. John Ruptash (son of Nick Ruptash of Hairy Hill, Alberta).

Fuyarchuk, Peter in Newfoundland, 1943.

George Emes, R.C.N.

Desaulniers, Madeleine, WD.

Desaulniers, Germain.

Lud Blaskin.

Coutu, Laurent.

Robinson, Paul, R.C.A.

Hohol, Albert (Bert).

Robinson, Pierre.

Lavallee, George.

Adrian Theroux — Florian's son.

Desaulniers, Wilfred.

Alcide Theroux.

Garnet English (gunsmith).

Steinhauer, Herb Lac.

Coutu, Arthur.

Desaulniers, Anthony, RCASC.

Paul Theroux, son of Alcide Theroux.

Robinson, Philip, R.C.A.

Mailloux, Norman.

Ray Pulkrabek.

Robinson, Jean.

Lacrosse, Joe.

Major, Joseph.

Archiniuk, Metro.

George and Dean English,
1941, Quebec.

Chester, John.

Pare, Armand.

Coutu, Rene Elzear, Corporal,
1944-1945.

Rifle drill — Aldershot, England.
Jim Johnman vs George English.

Chrapko, Alex, R.C.A.F.,
Yorkton, Saskatchewan.

Weir, Barney with his guitar

Brosseau, Florence J. W.D.
Royal Canadian Air Force.

Jim Chamberlain
1941-45

Brosseau, Maurice.

Nick Werenka
1939-45

Nick Mahara
1940-45

Steve Melnychuk R.C.A.F. in 1942 served 5 years in Germany and France. Stationed 5 years in Quebec, 5 years in Cold Lake. Now working for C.P.A. in Vancouver.

Bill Chamberlain served overseas from 1939 to 1945 and won four medals. In War one in France, one in Germany, one in Belgium, and one in Holland.

Arthur Laberge (killed in action in the Second World War — 1939-45) with Mr. and Mrs. J.B. Brosseau.

Captain John Bidulock, Commanding Officer 782 Cadet Squadron. Ex. B.C. Dragoons 19th Aito Dragoons R.C.A.F. Overseas Medical Cadet Corp. 782. RCAC's Two Hills.

Robinson, Rene J. Seaforth Highlanders of Canada, Lucia Brosseau, 2nd Wireless officer M/S "Tarn", Norwegian Merchant Navy, after discharge 1945.

Corporal Dan Bidulock
1945

Adelard Coutu
1940-45

Nick Fedoruk in 1945

Flying Officer
George Bidulock

Wm. Chronohus
1940-45

George English (Lance Corporal), 1939, Loyal Edmonton Regiment.

George Eglinski, 1945

Marcel Venne: youngest son of Athanase Venne. World War II.

THE CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATIONS ACT
(Chapter 6 of the Statutes of Alberta, 1946)

MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION
Champlain Rural Electrification Association Limited

	Name	Occupation	Address
WE, 1.	MIKE MACK	Farmer	Brosseau, Alta.
2.	NICHOLAS GONGOS	Farmer	Brosseau, Alta.
3.	HECTOR COUTU	Farmer	Brosseau, Alta.
4.	J.R. TOMLINSON	Farmer	Foisy, Alta.
5.	J. ARCHENUIK	Farmer	Brosseau, Alta.
6.	EUGENE FOISY	Farmer	Foisy, Alta.
7.	S. OUELLETTE	Farmer	Brosseau, Alta.
8.	LAURENT FOISY	Farmer	Foisy, Alta.
9.	SYL CHRAPKO	Farmer	Foisy, Alta.
10.	WM. TWERDOCHLIB	Farmer	Foisy, Alta.

do hereby express our desire to form an association under the provisions of The Co-operative Associations Act.

The corporate name of the Association is to be "Champlain Rural Electrification Association Limited".

The objects for which the Association is to be formed are:

(a) the purchase of electric power and energy;
(b) the construction and operation of an electric power distribution system for supplying electric power and energy to the members of the association;
(c) the sale and distribution of electric power and energy to the members of the Association for domestic and farm use;
(d) the borrowing of money and securing the repayment thereof and the granting of such security on the assets of the company as the directors may be resolution from time to time determine;

There is to be no share capital. The terms of membership shall be payment of a membership fee of one dollar ($1.00), and the entering into a contract with the Association for the purchase of electric power and energy and the payment of the contribution to construction and extension line costs as therein required, such contract to be in a form approved by the directors. The directors shall have the right to refuse membership to any person. Each member shall have an equal interest in the Association.

The number of directors who shall direct and supervise the concerns of the Association shall be seven (7) or such other number as shall from time to time be determined by the by-laws of the Association, and the names of such directors, until their successors are appointed under the by-law of the Association are: Eugene Foisy, President; Hector Coutu, Vice-President; Syl Chrapko, Secretary-Treasurer; Leo Marceau, D. Drapaka, Alex Werenka, Metro Sherstianka and the name of the place at which the head office or principal place of business is to be situate is Foisy, Alberta.

DATED the 9th day of March, 1953.

WITNESS:
S.W. Hawrelak

1. Mike Mack
2. Nicholas Gongos
3. Hector Coutu
4. J.R. Tomlinson
5. J. Archinuik
6. Eugene Foisy
7. S. Ouellette
8. Laurent Foisy
9. Syl Chrapko
10. Wm. Twerdochlib

AFFIDAVIT OF EXECUTION

CANADA)
)
PROVINCE OF ALBERTA)
)
TO WIT:)

I, S.W. Hawrelak of Vegreville of the Province of Alberta, _____ make oath and say:

1. THAT I was personally present and did see Mike Mack, Nicholas Gongos, Hector Coutu, J.R. Tomlinson, J. Archeniuk, Eugene Foisy, S. Ouellette, Laurent Foisy, Syl Chrapko, Wm. Twerdochlib named in the within Memorandum of Association, who are personally known to me to be the persons named therein, duly sign and execute the same for the purposes named therein.
2. THAT the same was executed at Foisy in the Province of Alberta, and that I am a subscribing witness thereto.
3. THAT I know the said parties, Mike Mack, Nicholas Gongos, Hector Coutu, J.R. Tomlinson, J. Archenuik, Eugene Foisy, S. Ouellette, Laurent Foisy, Syl Chrapko, Wm. Twerdochlib and they are each in my belief of the full age of twenty-one years.

SWORN BEFORE ME at)
Vegreville in the Province)
of Alberta, this 19th day of)
March A.D. 1953.)

S.W. Hawrelak,
Signature of Witness.

A. Morton
A COMMISSIONER FOR OATHS in and for the Province of Alberta.

BROSSEAU MUTUAL PHONE

by Florence Mailloux

Wires Spliced In Novel Ceremony

An official "Hook-up" opening of Brosseau Mutual Telephone Company Limited was celebrated Thursday, March 12th at the Champlain Hall. The banquet, well attended by most of the forty subscribers, was "MC'd" by president Victor Chrapko.

In order to get the affair rolling, originality was staged by the master of ceremonies as he placed a fake call to the operator, Mrs. Geo Eglinski for suggestions on how to commence.

She thought that someone capable of starting would be a priest or minister and as Father Pigeon was present, he was asked to say grace.

The master of ceremonies then introduced the guests, the Hon. and Mrs. Ray Reierson, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Mack, Mr. and Mrs. Herb Belcourt and Mr. and Mrs. Ray Robinson.

After the banquet, Hon. Ray Reierson spoke outlining the past, present and future development of telephone systems in Alberta. He pointed out that Calgary has the highest average of calls per phone in North America, 1,157 calls per phone in 1963.

PERFORMS OFFICIAL "HOOK-UP"

The Minister of Labour and Telephones then performed the "hook up" by splicing the ribbon which was cut earlier for the ceremony.

Mr. Reierson also briefly reported on this trip to Insbruck, Austria where he represented the Canadian Olympic Committee in the attempt to hold the 1968 Olympic Games at Banff.

The prime instigator for the rural line, Mike Mack of Viking, reviewed the many difficulties and problems in organizing a rural company. He did most of the organizing of the Brosseau Mutual Telephone Co. Ltd. before moving from Brosseau. He warned the Company of the danger involved in push button contraptions — (one may even get killed!)

Herb Belcourt, president of the Sunrise Construction Ltd. thanked the Brosseau company for the contract. Also representing the construction company was Ron Robinson.

The program was enlivened by "Spike's" (George Eglinski) introduction and demonstration of the repair man's tools. For example, the company's most important purchase was a $315 steam iron with which to "iron out problems".

President Victor Chrapko thanked the subscribers for their interest in forming the company and for their co-operation in using the party lines.

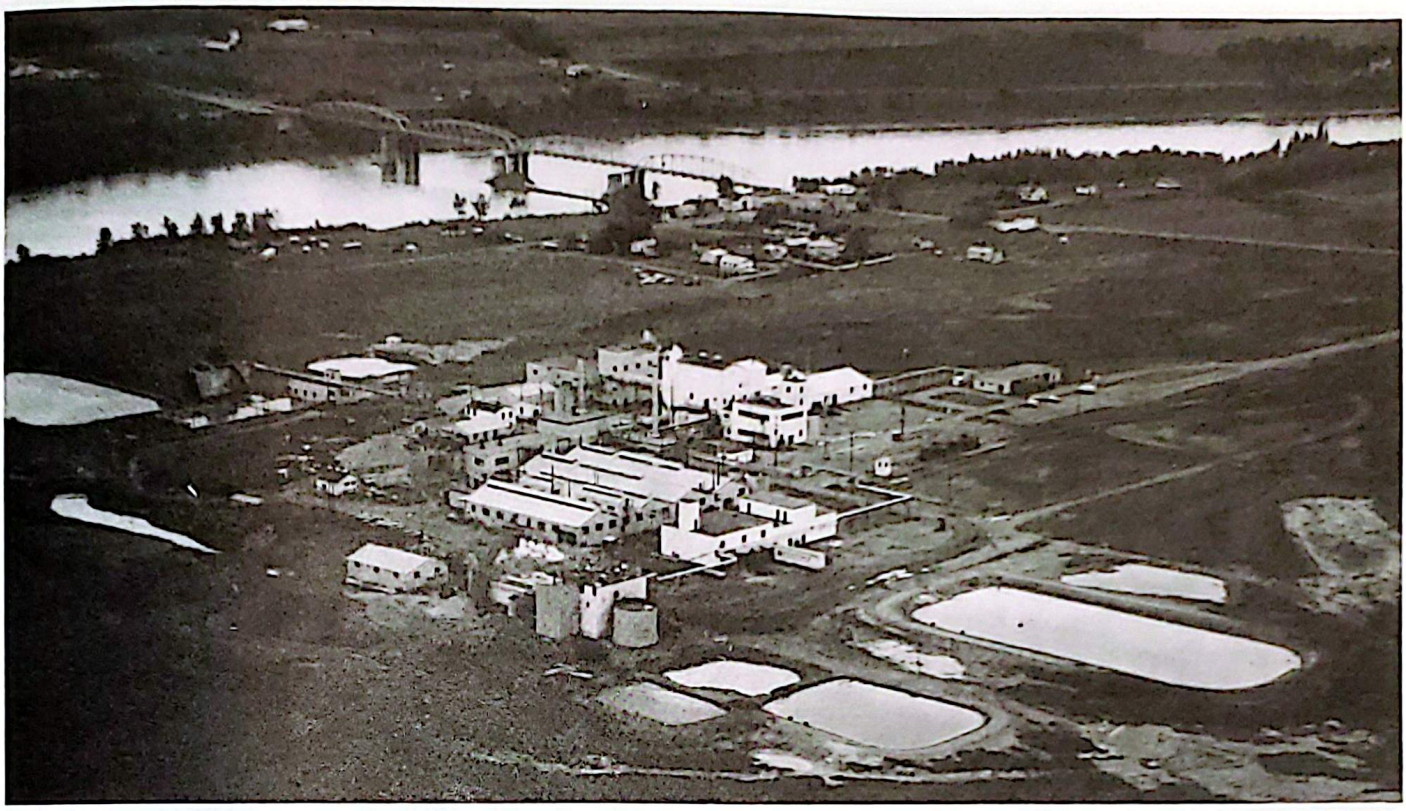
Thanks were also extended to the Ukrainian Women's Association of Brosseau who catered to the banquet.

The evening concluded with refreshments and dancing.

Reierson

HOOK UP BROSSEAU MUTUAL TELEPHONE, MINISTER
Hon. Ray Reierson, Minister of Telephones, performs the official hook-up ceremonies for the Brosseau Mutual Telephone Co. at a recent banquet. Instead of the traditional ribbon cutting, he welds the ends together. On the left Miss Elizabeth Achtimichuk and on the right, Victor Chrapko.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, BROSSEAU TELEPHONE MUTUAL
Pictured above are the directors of the Brosseau Mutual Telephone Company whose Association recently hooked up to the system. They are, left to right, front row: Robert Bachelet, secretary; Victor Chrapko, president; Jack Archinuk, vice-president; back row: Geroge Eglinski, Wm. Rosychuk, Michael Zelez, Ed Motowyto, Joe Brosseau Jr. March 12, 1963.



Two Hills Chemical Company Ltd. (Closure — June 1980)

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF WESTERN CHEMICALS LTD. & SUBSEQUENT OWNERSHIPS — DUVERNAY, ALBERTA

by Henry S. Haag

The formation of Western Chemicals Ltd. was the outgrowth of the establishment of salt operations at Lindbergh, Alberta, in 1946. The salt operations at Lindbergh were promoted by J.T. Donald & Co. Limited and backed by Alberta interests, notably Anglo-Canadian Oil Company Limited and Calgary & Edmonton Corporation, Limited.

Following the successful development of the Alberta Salt Company Limited, the possibility of caustic-chlorine production was considered. At that time, no caustic-chlorine production existed in Canada west of the Great Lakes.

Dr. Eric L. Harvie, Chairman of the Board of Directors 1952 — 1964

For various reasons, more particularly the discovery of the Leduc Oilfield, the Alberta Salt Company lost interest in the establishment of chlor-alkali production.

In 1952, the late Eric L. Harvie of Calgary became interested in the possible establishment of a chlor-alkali plant, and the initial market for caustic soda was provided by the requirements of the Canadian Chemical Company, whose plant at Edmonton was then coming into production. At the same time, the new oil fields were creating a market for muriatic acid, which provided an outlet for the chlorine.

The interests of the Alberta Salt Company in the venture were acquired by the Eric L. Harvie interests and, after careful investigation and study, the decision was made to construct a plant, with a capacity of 10 tons per day on the North Saskatchewan River at Duvernay, Alberta, and near Two Hills, Alberta.

The availability of both natural gas and salt beds in the area, a good water supply, and the co-operation of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company in building a spur line from Two Hills to the plantsite provided the basic requirements for the project.

Initially, the marketing of the chlorine presented problems but, with the development of pulp operations at Hinton, Alberta and Dryden, Ontario, the plant rapidly expanded. The initial 10-ton was doubled to 20 tons per day by 1955 and the 20-ton plant, shortly after coming into production was further doubled to 40 tons per day by 1957. By 1959, a further expansion was announced in the "Financial Post — April 18, 1959" edition and made the following observation:

"DON'T BELIEVE PEOPLE WHO SAY THERE ARE NO OPPORTUNITIES IN HEAVY INDUSTRY FOR NEW COMPANIES TO START ON A SMALL SCALE. AN EXAMPLE? WESTERN CHEMICALS LTD. NEAR TWO HILLS, ALBERTA. IN ITS FIVE YEARS' LIFE, IT HAS SHOWN ITSELF TO BE THE FASTEST GROWING CHEMICAL PLANT IN THE COUNTRY — POSSIBLY THE FASTEST GROWING IN NORTH AMERICA."

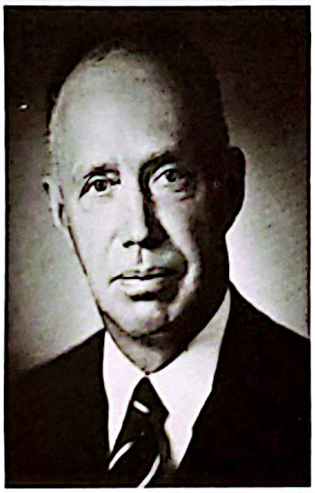
At the outset, following the 1959 expansion, facilities for solid caustic soda were installed to serve the market in the West and, more particularly, Eldorado Mining & Refining Ltd.

Subsequent to the announcement, the expansion took place in 1960 and the plant capacity was increased to a nominal 60 tons of chlorine and equivalent caustic soda per day. Also at this time, a new production area was introduced. A calcium chloride unit was erected as part of the expansion to utilize the excess chlorine in the manufacture of muriatic acid and which was in turn used for reaction with limestone for production of calcium chloride.

A caustic soda purification process was also installed to produce salt-free caustic soda.

The more outstanding technical features of the plant were its self-contained nature, using natural gas from nearby gas fields for power generation and heat and salt brine from salt beds underlying the surrounding area. These features, together with an ample water supply from the North Saskatchewan River, provided the essential physical requirements.

The necessary financing was provided by the late Eric L. Harvie interests, and Dr. Harvie deserves great credit for his willingness to support the venture.



Dr. J.R. Donald,
President
1952 — 1962

The President of Western Chemicals Ltd. from inception until October 31, 1962, was Dr. J.R. Donald.

The engineering and construction of the plant was supervised by J.T. Donald & Co. Limited with G. Leighton Williams as Chief Engineer. The original General Manager of the plant was W.J. Loney. In 1957, H. Milton Martin became General Manager at the corporate level, and J.S. McQuade, Plant Manager. In 1962, Mr. Martin became Vice-President and Managing Director.

H.M. Martin,
General Manager
1957 — 1961
Vice-President
& General Manager
1962 — 1964

J.S. McQuade
1956 — 1963

W.J. Loney
1953 — 1954

In 1964, Western Chemicals was acquired by Chemcell (1963) Limited of Edmonton, whose main purpose for acquisition was to aggressively expand the chlor-alkali industry and at the same time protect their huge requirements of caustic soda.

For the entire period of the promotion of the plant, its construction and subsequent operations, Mr. Eric L. Harvie was Chairman of the Board and Remained so until the sale of the Company.

Mr. Eric L. Harvie is remembered by many. In the early years, he was fond of visiting the Two Hills area, not only for business reasons but to take advantage of the excellent duck hunting seasons. Mr. Eric L. Harvie is fondly remembered by his former employees as well. At the very beginning, Mr. Harvie introduced a policy which provided a Congratulatory Certificate to the family, together with a $50.00 cheque to each child born into an employee's household.

He was respected by Canadians as a whole and more particularly by Western Canadians for his generosity and involvement with Western Canadian culture.

At the time of his death on January 11, 1975, at the age of 82, the Edmonton Journal aptly summed up his career (see Exhibit II).

Chemcell (1963) Ltd.

The sale of the Western Chemicals Ltd. plant was effected June 5, 1964 (see Exhibit I).

Chemcell was Canada's most diversified manufacturer of chemicals and textiles, operating plants in Alberta, Ontario and Quebec and employed some 7,000 people with the head office located in Montreal.

The Company was affiliated with Celanese Corporation, New York, which produced a broad line of petro-chemicals, fibres, plastics, paints and coatings petroleum and forest products. With the addition of the Two Hills plant, their scope was broadened to incorporate the chlor-alkali technology which was rapidly expanding an in later years to become the major industry in the Alberta chemical field.

At this time, the Two Hills employees and residents, together with the new owners, displayed a new wave of optimism for growth and expansion in the future.

The existing plant chlorine facilities were re-evaluated under a progressive engineering study and the 60-ton per day chlorine production was increased to 80 tons per day.

The sequence of events which followed and which led to a major plant shut-down in 1970, greatly resulted from the mood of the chemical industry which developed in the late 60's and extended well into the 70's. During this time, the chemical industry in Canada experienced a prolonged period in which growth became depressed or stagnant as a result of competition from other countries.

Chemcell was particularly effected in the textile-chemical areas and as a result, their losses were reflected in the decline of their stocks.

The difficult times for chemcell caused indecision and uncertainties as far as the chlor-alkali industry in Two Hills was concerned.

Plans had been underway for a major expansion to the Duvernay facilities but were necessarily delayed due to the downward trend of the Canadian Chemical Industry. In addition, Dow Chemical of Canada in the late 60's announced their intent to construct a chlor-alkali facility in the Fort Saskatchewan area. The new facilities erected by Dow Chemical of Canada far exceeded the Two Hills production capabilities, coupled with their probimity to the major users ultimately necessitated a shut-down of the chlorine manufactufing process at the Two Hills plant on January 8, 1970, reducing the workforce from 130 people to 65. A further plant cut-back was initiated in 1971, reducing the workforce to 40.

Chemcell continued to operate the utilities section, the chlorine packaging area, the calcium chloride area and the caustic-fusion-pan room areas under an arrangement with Dow Chemical to supply the raw materials for production.

Chemcell during the following three years expended large resources, both financial and human expertise, in an effort to find other laternatives for the Two Hills facilities. However, the Canadian chemical industry remained such that no viable industry was attracted for the site and in 1973, Chemcell who had undergone a name change to Celanese Canada Ltd. notified the Alberta Government of their intent to totally close the Two Hills chemical operation.

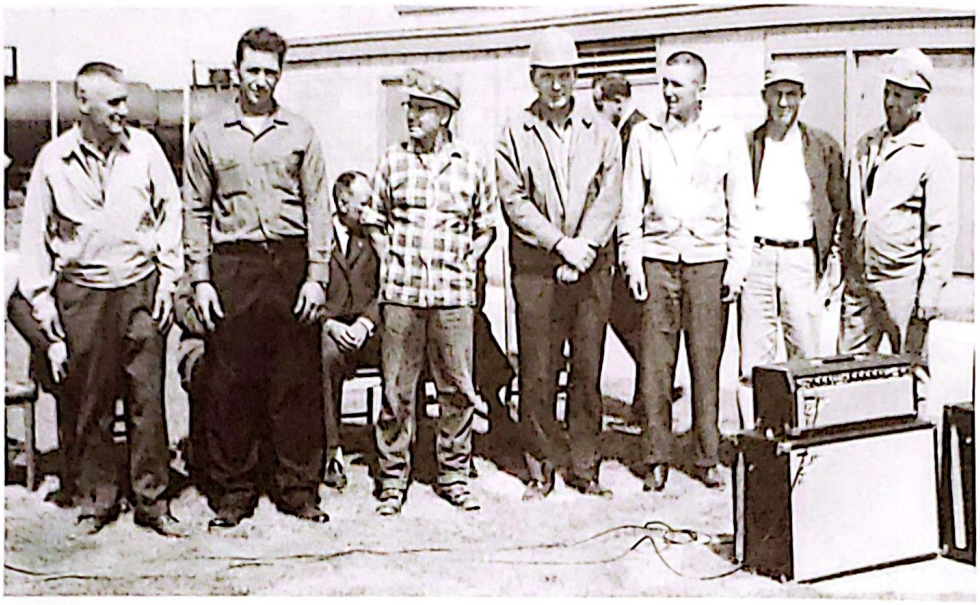
(An old era was ending and a new Company was about to be born.)

Highlights of the Chemcell (Celanese) Years

- — Acquistion 1964.
- — 1964-66 increased chlorine production from 60 to 80 tons per day.
- — 1967 Two Hills Plant is awarded the Corporate Harold Blancke Safety Award for the best Safety Record in Canada.
- — 1967 Chemcell employees were awarded the National Safety Plaque and the W.C.B. Plaque for their outstanding safety performance.
- — Chemcell honours long-term employees with perfect safety records.

Mr. D.C. Hagerman receiving the Harold Blancke Canadian Safety Award from Mr. H. Blancke

The Harold Blancke Canadian Safety Award



Left to right: Harry Dronyk, Peter Kutash, Archie McLean, George Oneschuk, Sam Sherstianko, Bill Smith, and Ed Brosseau.

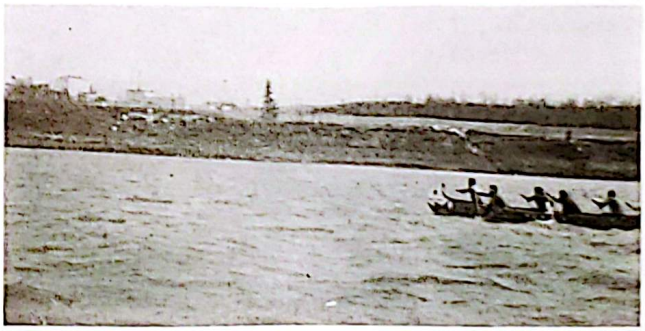
1966 — Chemcell committed an $18,000.00 interest-free loan to the Two Hills Lions, who spearheaded the construction of the Two Hills Centennial Arena.

1967 — Chemcell committed a $25,000.00 interest-free loan to the Town of Two Hills for the construction of the Centennial Hall.

1968 — Hosted a plant family day with Canada wide product exhibitions in the Two Hills Centennial Hall.

Alberta Crew on home stretch with Two Hills plant in background.

Waterfront area for canoe landings and other water activities.

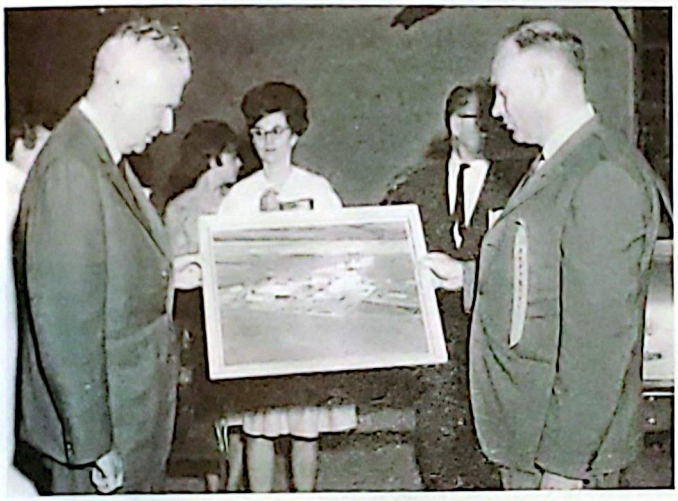


Yukon Crew on home stretch with Two Hills Plant in background.

Start of Canoe Sprint.

Two Hills employees entered in Beard Growing contest. O. Humeniuk, P. Wertz, M. Pundick.

Presentation of Sprint awards by Mr. R.F. Steele of Chemcell.



Mr. Diefenbaker looking at aerial Photograph of Chemcell, Two Hills Plant with Mr. Hagerman.

Indian Hoop Dance.

1973 — Celanese honours 20-year employees.

1967 — Chemcell provided use of their riverside property for the Two Hills and district Centennial Pageant Canoe races and celebrations.

1966-67-68 — Chemcell provided complete going-away wardrobes to the Lions Miss Northeastern Alberta candidates competing in the Miss Canada Pageant Competitions — Toronto.

The event received national acclaim and each wardrobe was valued at approximately $1,500.00 made from Chemcell fabrics.

Shirley Kaziechko — 1968

Gail Scraba — 1966

Shirley Elko — 1967

Chemcell Scholarships

In order to encourage sons and daughters of employees to excel in high school curriculums, Chemcell funded and awarded scholarships annually to those students who earned a Grade XII Senior Matriculation Certificate with honours.

The recipient received a scholarship valued at $1,500.00/year for four years. In special cases where post-graduate studies were desired by the student and when recommended by the Advisory Board, the scholarship was extended.

The scholarship program was administered by the University of Toronto, completely independent of Chemcell control.

Chemcell honor students were simply required to submit resumes of their achievements, verified by their high school principal.

A student had to have excellent marks as he was competing with 7,000 Chemcell families across Canada.

Chemcell students in Two Hills were well represented and on a per capita basis were probably more often represented than any other Chemcell plant in Canada. The following honour students won the scholarship awards:

1) Miss Beverley Panylyk — 1968
2) Miss Kelly Nicholson — 1969
3) Mr. Lawrence Martin — 1969
4) Late John Oneschuk — 1970

Two Hills County Emergency Measures Team — 1971

The 1971 County of Two Hills Emergency Rescue Team financially assisted by Celanese Canada Ltd. and

County of Two Hills Emergency Measures Team
L-R back row: A. McLean, E.R. Pshyk, Wm. J. Smith, M. Mudryk, S. Sorochan, H.S. Haag, & O. Choban.
Front row: R.A. Kupchanko & M.D. Pawliuk.

The Hon. L.C. Halmrast Trophy.

largely represented by their employees won the north-eastern sectional competitions, to win a berth to the Western Canada Finals in Calgary where regional winners from Western Canada were vying for top honours.

The team consisted of:

M. Mudryk — County Co-ordinator
S. Sorochan — Team Captain & Reconnaissance Leader
Wm. J. Smith — Leader Rescue Squad
A. McLean — assisting
E.R. Pshyk — assisting
O. Choban — assisting
R.A. Kupchanko — Leader - First Aid Squad
M.D. Pawliuk — assisting
H.S. Haag — assisting

The team merited the Hon. L.C. Halmrast trophy for the best Reconnaissance and Rescue Techniques for Western Canada.

Two Hills Chemical Company Ltd. January 1, 1974 to June 1, 1980

Following the announcement by Celanese in 1973 of their intent to close the Two Hills operation, the Premier of Alberta, the Hon. P. Lougheed, who had committed his efforts to the industrialization of Alberta, instructed his cabinet minister to find a solution that would insure the continued operation of the Two Hills plant and one that would allow more time for active involvement to find alternate uses for the plant. The ultimate goal being to maintain an industry in Two Hills.

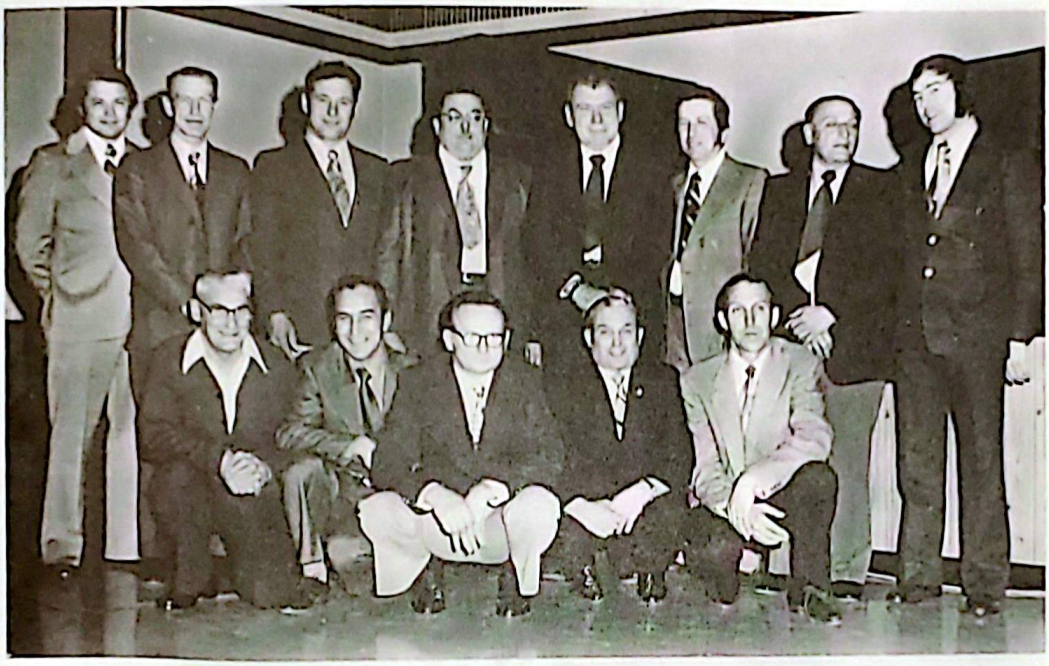
Accordingly, a plan evolved which included Dow Chemical of Canada and the Provincial Government.

Effective January 1, 1974, Two Hills Chemical Company Ltd. was born. The owners, the Alberta Government 51% and Dow Chemical of Canada Limited 49%, combined their efforts and agreed upon a tempor-

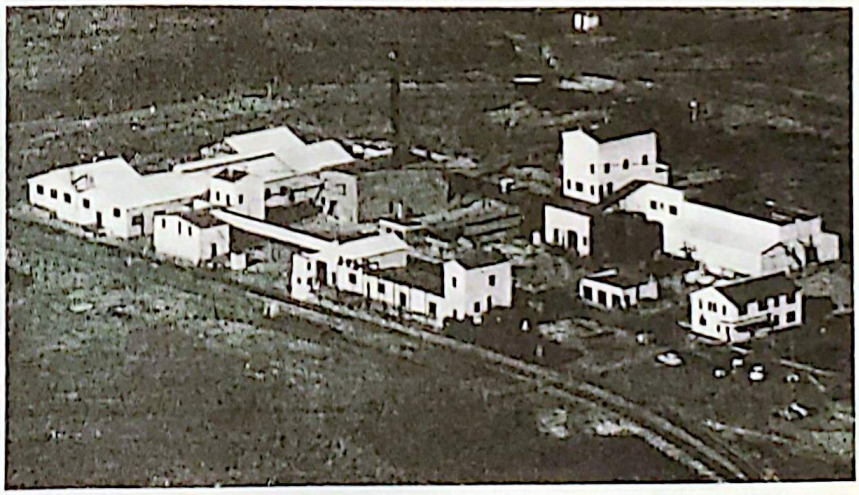
ary system to keep the plant operating until an alternate operation could be found.

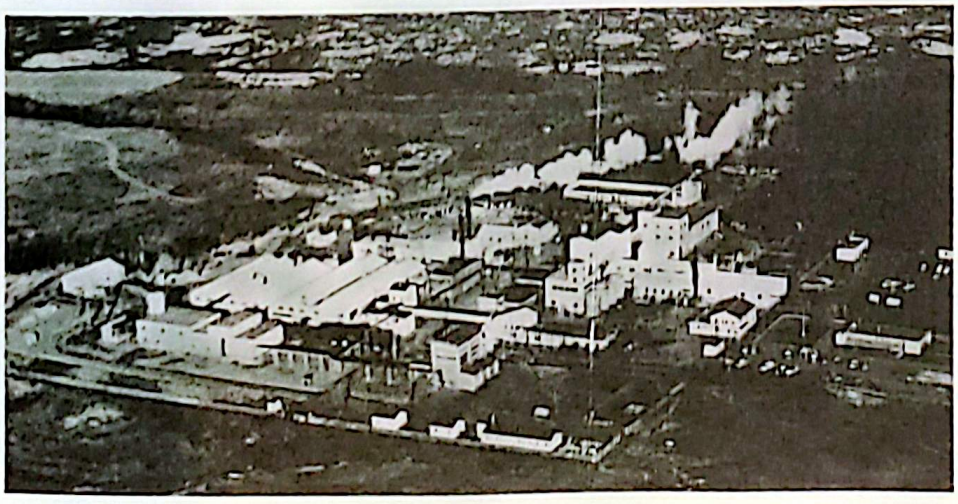
During the years which were to follow the Company with former Celanese plant manager, J.A. Brownlee at the corporate level, actively sought and explored numerous new programs in an effort to put the plant back on a viable basis. A great deal of effort and financial resources were invested in the plantsite to improve its appearance and operation from a cosmetic point of view, hopefully to attract some new industry.

On March 17, 1980, the Company announced the sale of the plant to a firm "Western Truck Body



Twenty-year Employees of Celanese Canada Ltd. — Two Hills Plant. The plant was built on the south shore of the North Saskatchewan River in Duvernay. At the annual Christmas party of Celanese Canada Ltd., in 1973, twenty-year employees on the payroll when the plant first opened were honoured. They are front row, left to right: Harry Dronyk, Peter Popowich, Ernie Krucik, Rene Robinson, Henry Kostyniuk; back row: Mickey Mitchell (Plant Manager), Norman Mailloux, Peter Kutash, Victor Romaniuk, George Oneschuk, Sam Sherstianko, Mike Romaniuk, Arthur Barry (Production Foreman). Missing: — Triffon Rosychuk and William Smith.



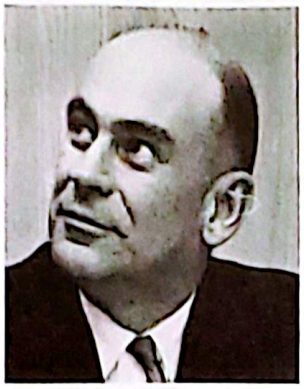


EMPLOYEES

JULY 1, 980

* Denotes an employee that began employment at start-up — Dec. 12, 1953.

R.F. Steele
1965 — 196



D.C. Hagerman
1967 — 1968

J.A. Brownlee
1969 — 1970

E.R. Nicholson
Late 1970

J. Huisman
1971 — 1973

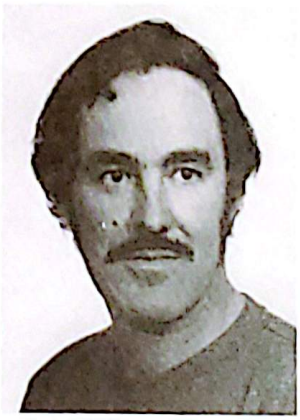
M.J. Mitchell
July 1973 — Dec. 31/73

M.D. Pawliuk
1974 — 1976

H.S. Haag
1977 — 1980

H.S. Haag,
Administration Superintendent
1966 — 1980

E.R. Krucik,
Maintenance Foreman
1954 — 1980



R.A. Kupchanko,
Maintenance Stores — Safety
& Environmental Control Supv.
1958 — 1980

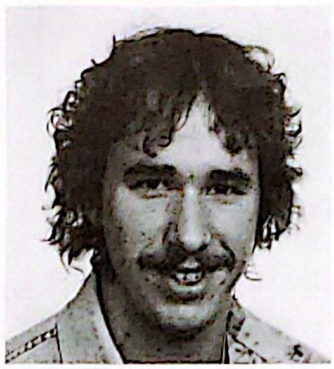
P. Orlecki,
Production Foreman
1954 — 1980

Mrs. M.E. Wysocki,
Administrative Secretary
1961 — 1980

Mrs. J. Chisan,
Relief Clerk Steno —
Switchboard Operator,
Intermittent Employment
1956 — 1980

J. Blekemolen
"Labourer"
1979 — 1980

D. Boida
"Assistant Operator"
1978 — 1980

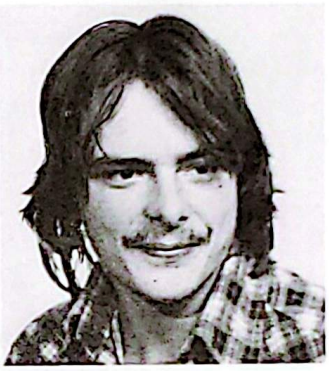


T. Bureyko
"Labourer"
1979 — 1980

D. Elkow
"Utility I"
1977 — 1980

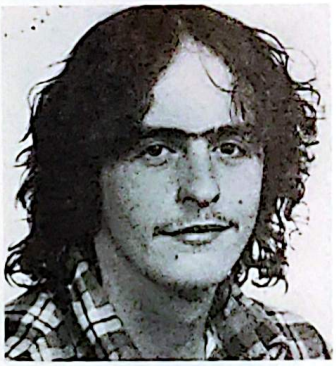
K. Halkow
"Labourer"
1979 — 1980

W. Kachuk
"Assistant Operator"
1978 — 1980



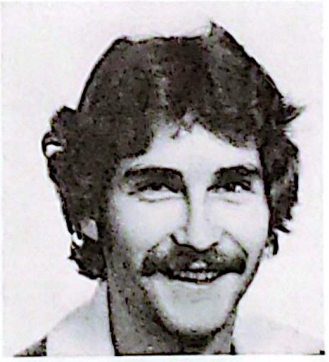
M. King
"Labourer"
1980

E. Kozak
"Assistant Operator"
1979 — 1980



H. Kuzio
"Labourer"
1980

H. Kostyniuk
"3rd Cl. Steam Eng."
1954 — 1980

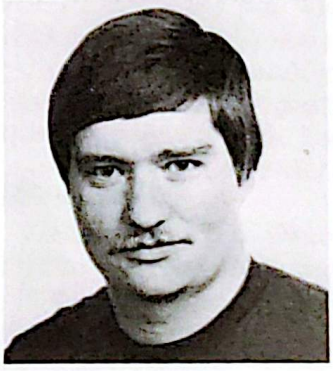


W. Lebid
"Temporary Payroll Clerk
& Lab Analyst"
1979 — 1980

R. Logozar
"Operator"
1976 — 1980

B. Lutzak
"Labourer"
1980

N. Mailloux
"Senior Loader"
1954 — 1980



E. Makarenko
"Labourer"
1979 — 1980

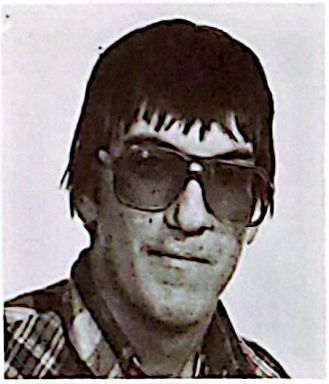
M. Mandrusiak
"Operator"
"4th Cl. Steam Eng."
1976 — 1980

W. Marsh
"Operator"
1954 — 1980

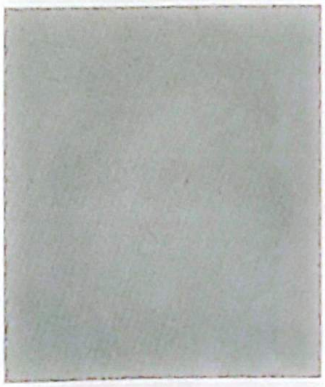
J. Mazurek
"Operator"
1976 — 1980

* G. Oneschuk
"2nd Cl. Steam Eng. — Chief"
1953 — 1980

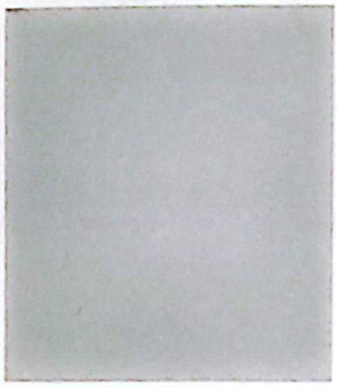
E. Plaska
"3rd Cl. Steam Eng."
1977 — 1980



B. Rosychuk
"Labourer"
1980



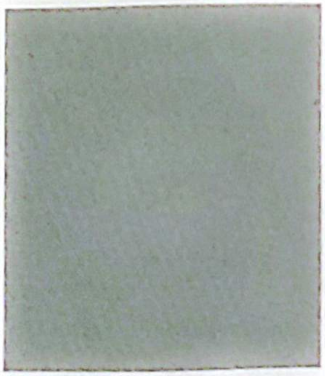
T. Rosychuk
"Operator"
1954 — 1980



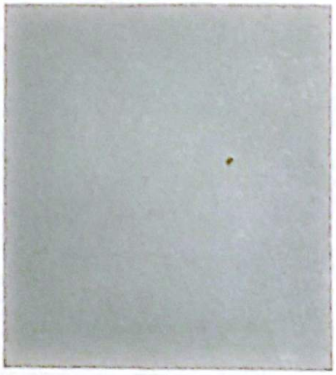
H. Sawchuk
"3rd Cl. Steam Eng."
1956 — 1980

* W. Smith
"2nd Cl. Steam Eng."
1953 — 1980

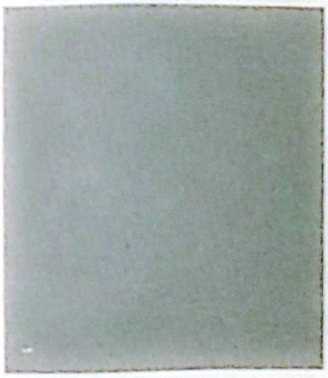
E. Sorochan
"Utility I"
1977 — 1980



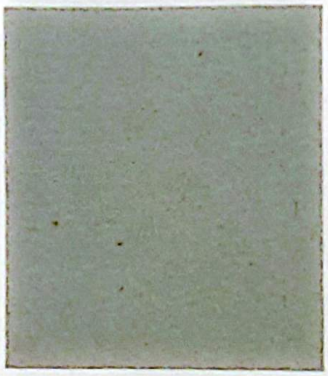
A. Tkachuk
"Utility I"
1973 — 1980



K. Winder
"Labourer"
1979 — 1980



F. Whiskeyjack
"Labourer"
1979 — 1980

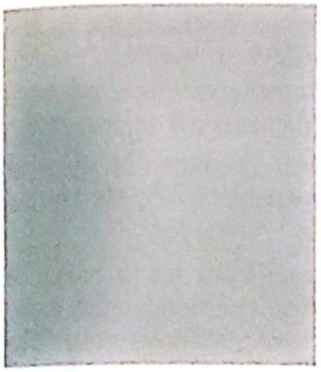


W. Wynnychuk
"Security Guard"
1978 — 1980

Maintenance

J. Archinuk
"3rd Cl. Steam Eng."
"Pipefitter" 1974 — 1980

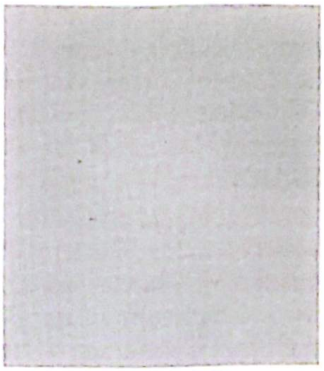
A. Elkow
"Welder"
1958 — 1980



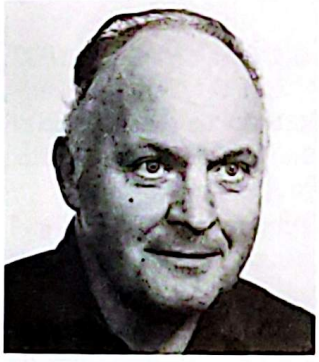
R. Evert
"Electrician"
1976 — 1980

G. King
"Welder — Pressure"
1973 — 1980

D. Pawliuk
"Carpenter"
1974 — May 1980
"Retirement"



J.E. Rudyk (Ed)
"Auto Mechanic-Millwright
Machinist"
1963 — 1980



M. Sayler
"Millwright"
1972 — 1980

N. Wysocki
"Inter-Prov. Electrician"
"4th Cl. Steam Eng."
1963 — 1980

Other Areas of Noteworthy Interest Including Economic Values

The Duvernay Chemical site, in its 26½ years of operation, had bestowed upon the area vast economic benefits through the creation of employment opportunities, and infusion of chemical dollars into the private and business sectors determining to a large extent the prosperity of all citizens.

— 26½ years had injected more than 18 million payroll dollars into the area plus several million more construction labour dollars.
— Afforded citizens the opportunity to obtain specialized training through apprenticeship privileges.
— Injected many thousands of dollars to community projects and/or organizations.
— Attracted specialized personalities offering varied qualifications, adding to the talent richness of the area.
— Provided a substantial favorable tax base to County residents.
— Injected millions of dollars into the private business sector as a result of budgetary routine spending.
— Through employment opportunities, attracted and maintained young people with families — the richest contribution to any system.

In conclusion, the Duvernay-Two Hills Chemical operation will undisputably be remembered as an era of great importance and change.

Its being, had a vast impact upon all residents and was greatly responsible for the growth and prosperity of the area. Its being, commencing in the early postwar years and continuing for over a quarter of a century gradually reshaped and moulded its people to life-styles so typical to Western Canadians, young, vibrant and eager to get on with the business of manufacturing.

In retrospect, over a quarter of a century seems minute in time, but the ravages and creations of time, in what has been, can be seen everywhere, and in everything and its being has now been given to the ages.

Thus are the pages of the past. As time ticks on, new creations and pages will unfold, what, how and where, only time will tell.

5th June, 1964.

Staff and Employees of
Western Chemicals Ltd.,
Two Hills,
Alberta.

Today marks the transfer of ownership of our Company, Western Chemicals Ltd., to Chemcell (1963) Limited of Edmonton.

As each of you will, I am sure, fully understand, it is with deep pangs of regret that I have found it advisable to dispose of this Company and its operations and sever all official connection therewith, but I feel happy in the thought that I am sure the new owners are a most efficient and pleasant group to work with. It is particularly pleasing to know that each and every one of you is being retained in your present position, and my hope is that the change will prove to be beneficial to you all and give possibly greater opportunity for your advancement than we could provide.

Along with my co-Directors, I wish to thank you for your co-operation in the past, and to extend to each of you the best wishes for the future.

Yours sincerely,

Chairman of the Board.

ELH/ps.

EXHIBIT II

Oil boom pioneer dead at 82
Edmonton Journal, Jan. 14, 1975

CALGARY — Eric Lafferty Harvie, Calgary philanthropist who made millions in one of Alberta's big oil booms, died Saturday in Calgary General Hoapital.

The 82-year-old lawyer, who founded Calgary's Glenbow Foundation in 1954, was an active participant in historical and cultural affairs and had a distinguished military career in the First World War.

With a personal fortune once estimated at more than $100 million, Mr. Harvie became renowned throughout Canada for his numerous philanthropic activities, particularly in Western Canadian culture.

It was these that earned him many honors. Last August, Time magazine called him "the man who gave everything back and then some."

His major contribution was the donation, in 1966, of his vast collection of paintings and artificats (mostly Western Canadian) along with $5 million to establish the Glenbow Alberta Institute, of which he remained honorary chairman until his death.

The institute now holds more than 25,000 books, maps and pamphlets, almost 100,000 historical photographs, 13,000 paintings and large ethnographic, mineralogical, archeological and military collections.

In the spring of 1976 the collection will be housing in the 12 million institute building being constructed by the province as part of the downtown Calgary Convention Centre complex.

A second large collection of museum artifacts, available on loan to qualified organizations for study, is held by the Devonian Foundation, established by Mr. Harvie in 1956.

Last September the Devonian Foundation pledged $5 million to help rural Alberta municipalities improve their main streets. Other gifts have ranged from $3 millions to help establish a cold-ocean resources engineering centre in Newfoundland and the offer of a similar amount to provide a glassed-in park for dowtown Calgary.

As fellow oilman Carl Nickle put it during Mr. Harvie's lifetime: "He is one of the few Canadians who is giving the bulk of his wealth back to the community where he gained it."

Mr. Harvie was one of the originators of the Fathers of Confederation Centre at Charlottetown, P.E.I., which in 1964 became the first memorial to Canada's founders. He also was a member of the Canada Council from 1957 to 1959.

Among his many contributions to Calgary was the equestrian statue of the 14th Century Scottish king Robert Bruce — the only copy of the original statue he had commissioned for the village of Bannockburn in Scotland — which now stands on a pedestal below the Jubilee Auditorium overlooking the Bow River and downtown Calgary.

The statue of General James Wolfe (victor in the battle of the Plains of Abraham) which stands in front of the Calgary Planetarium was a centennial-year gift from Mr. Harvie, who also donated River Park to the city.

Heritage Park, a showplace illustrating lifestyles in pioneer Southern Alberta, was established by Mr. Harvie in conjunction with the Woods Foundation.

Mr. Harvie received honors from many areas of Canadian society during his lifetime, among which were two doctrates, an honorary doctor of laws from the University of Alberta in 1957 and a doctor of the university degree from the University of Calgary 10 years later at a ceremony in which the late Lester B. Pearson was similarly honored.

Mr. Harvie was also a fellow of the Royal Society of Arts in London, england, a knight of grace in the Order of St. John of Jersusalem, and a member of the advisory committee of the University of Western Ontario and the National Council of the Duke of Edinburgh's award in Canada.

The Medal of Service of the Order of Canada was awarded to Mr. Harvie in 1967 — the year the order was created Mr. Harvie was active in — and a sponsor of — the establishment of the Banff School of Fine 45', now the Banff Centre, which name a $5 million theatre after him the following year.

He received a scroll from the Historical Society of Alberta in 1962 and in the same year was made an honorary chief of the Blackfoot Indian tribe with the name Natos-api (old sun).

Mr. Harvie was born in Orillia, Ont. on April 1, 1892 to Silliam and Cecile Harvie, and received his early education at public schools in that city. Late he studied at Osgoode Hall, Toronto and the University of Alberta, graduating with a law degree in 1914.

He was admitted to the Alberta bar in 1915 and practised in Calgary, where he became the senior partner in the firm of Harvie, Arnold and Crawford. In September, 1919 he married Dorothy Jean Southam.

Mr. Harvie's military career began in 1915 when he enlisted in the 15th Alberta Light Horse. Later that year he was commissioned as a lieutenant in the 56th Battalion, sailing for Europe in 1916. He was transferred to the 49th Battalion in France with whom he was serving on the Somme that October when he was severely wounded.

Invalided home in 1917, he was seconded to the Royal Flying Corps. (which became the Royal Air Force in 1918) and was demobilized in 1919 with the rank of captain.

During the Second World War, Mr. Harvie served as a member of the Calgary Mounted Constabulary holding the rank of troop leader, subsequently becoming assistant commandant and finally commandant.

Mr. Harvie became a director of the Southam Company in 1946 and also served as a director of the Empire Trust Co.

He is survived by his wife, Dorothy; one daughter, Mrs. Donald (Joy) Maclaren; and two sons, Neil, who ranches at Cochrane and Donald, senior vice-president of Petrofina Canada Ltd. in Calgary.

BILL MACIBORSKI

Bill was born in Tofield and educated in Tofield and Edmonton and while employed with R. Angus for four years, obtained his heavy duty mechanic certificate and then moved to Union Tractor in field service in Edmonton and service management in Calgary. Since then Bill has been associated with many phases of the oil and construction industry.

Since 1966 Bill went into business such as machining and manufacturing and sold out in 1971 to go into the construction field. He was established in Sherwood Park before moving his operation in 1974 to Two Hills.

A modern shop, plant, crushing and gravel hauling operation and offices now fill in what was bush, ½ mile east of Two Hills, only a year ago. All phases of earth moving, equipment and concrete equipment are now housed on this location.

Bill has built up his operation to oilfield construction and maintenance, sand and gravel hauling, supply concrete, all types of excavation, forming and finishing concrete basements, patios, sidewalks, floors, supplying fill dirt and back loam, steel fabricating, heavy and light truck hauling.

The operation employs up to 70 people, most of which now reside in Two Hills or within the County of Two Hills and the scope of his jobs range from Ft. McMurray to southern Alberta.

Bill is married and has four children and resides in Two Hills.

Bil-Mac Construction and Oil Field Maintenance Ltd. is now one of the largest employers in the area with some 70 people on the payroll. The company is primarily involved in oil field maintenance, heavy duty equipment for road construction, supply of chemicals for drilling operations, and redi-mix concrete.

Since its beginning in 1974, the company has grown steadily from a small construction firm to one of the largest construction companies operating in northeastern Alberta. Located one-half mile east of the town limits, Bil-Mac construction boasts a modern shop, plant, a complete crushing and gravel hauling operation, offices, plus all types of earth moving and concrete equipment.

Starting from scratch four years ago, company president Bill Maciborski has built his operation into a vast construction company offering a wide range of services.

With one of the largest work forces in the whole area, Bil-Mac handles a payroll of more than $1 million annually, and with many of the workers residing in Two Hills, much of this money finds its way into the mainstream of the local economy.

Bill Maciborski, President

MAN OF THE YEAR, JOHN BOYCHUK: HIS BUSINESS GREW WITH ALBERTA

Transport company began with search for better way.

Frustration with inadequate local transportation services sparked Northern Alberta's transportation man of the year to establish his own trucking company.

John Boychuk, a farmer in the Brosseau area, decided 40 years ago there must be a better means of transporting merchandise to and from Edmonton, 100 miles to the west.

He purchased a new three-quarter ton International truck and established Boychuk Transport Ltd. in 1937.

In the next few years he had to give up his 350-acre farming operation as he started transporting livestock to Edmonton meat-packing plants from the Two Hills area.

The Second World War, and the construction of the Alaskan Highway, opened up a whole new dimension to his business. He spent the winter of 1941-42 hauling freight from Edmonton through Dawson Creek, Whitehorse and into Alaska.

The 69 year-old Edmontonian, who came to Alberta from the Ukraine in 1910, received the 1977 man of the year award at the Northern Alberta Transportation Club's eighth annual meeting Monday, June 7, 1977.

The award recognizes Mr. Boychuk's contribution to transportation over his 40 year career, particularly in developing services outside the Edmonton area, said Bob Stevenson, club past president.

Mr. Boychuk, whose firm operates 100 trucks and trailers and employs more than 50 people, acted as his own driver in the initial years of the company.

After a winter on the Alaskan Highway run, he established a general merchandise store and gasoline station in Duvernay on the south shore of the Saskatchewan River, which prospered during the war.

But, "as the farmers started to get more money, they began driving further to the next large town, "he said. Mr. Boychuk, believing this his Duvernay business was to

From L. to R. — Nicky, Milton, Lillian, Regina, John, Bert, Jim, Marie Anne. July 1978.

be doomed, started shifting his trucking firm to Edmonton.

The construction of a chemical plant near Duvernay, allowed Boychuk Transportation to expand.

Mr. Boychuk said he did not want to run the risk of becoming entirely dependent on one company, however, and shifted his headquarters to Edmonton to initiate a more divrsified operation.

The company established a subsidiary to handle freight on the Alaska Highway and expanded beyond the Edmonton — Two Hills area into Calgary, the North and other provinces. Today, the company's trucks operate daily service to Two Hills, Duvernay and Calgary from Edmonton. They also handle non-scheduled runs to the other prairie provinces and the North.

The company initiated its Yukon service by transporting frozen bread to Whitehorse. It has served the boomtown of Fort McMurray and even brought oil sand to Edmonton for testing.

"We added our first tractor-trailer unit in 1954" Mr. Boychuk said. This unit cost $6,500 compared to $90,000 for a modern tractor-trailer.

Boychuk Transport operates various types of bulk and specialized trailers. They transport a great deal of acid and caustic soda from plants in the Fort Saskatchewan and Two Hills area.

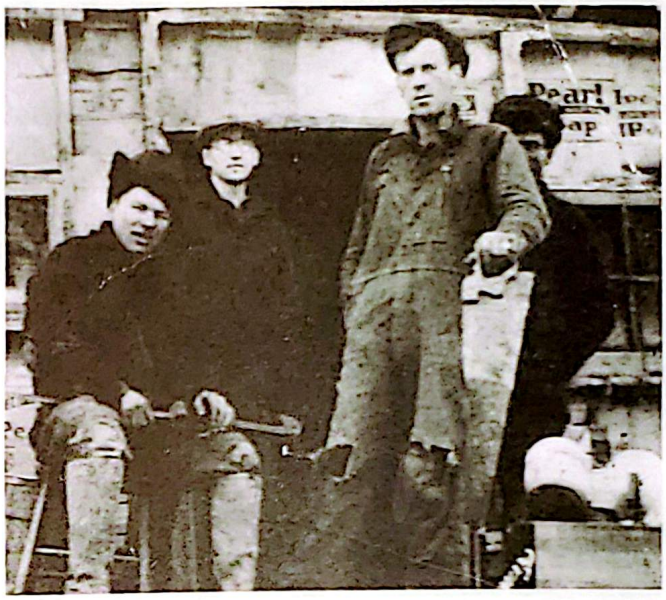
Mr. Boychuk is now semi-retired and spends winters in Arizona with his wife Regina, where "the golf season is a little longer than in Edmonton."

MIKE AND MAC PAULICHUK, THE COAL MINER AND BUSINESS MAN

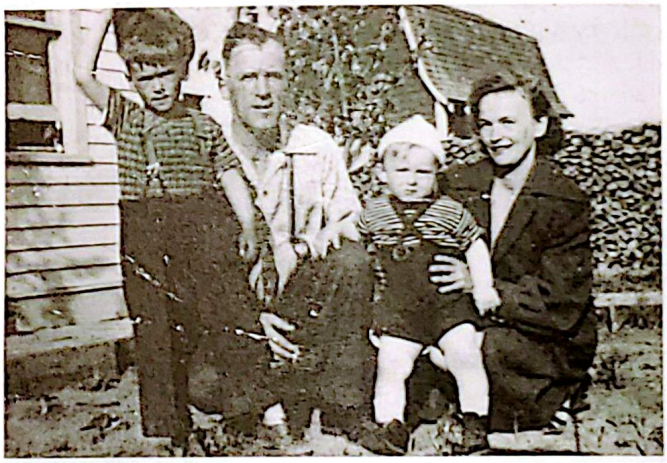
by Hector Coutu

Mike Paulichuk came to Canada in 1908. He homesteaded on the S.E. 6-55-11-W4th. He married Mary Mandrusiak. He was a councillor for the M.D. of Sober and for sixteen years served as Trustee and Secretary Treasurer of the Luzan School.

One day when he was looking for logs on the S.E. 34-55-11-W4th he saw water coming out of the ground on a hill side. He went home and got a shovel and dug into the hill and found out that there was a two and half foot coal seam there. As Mr. Paulichuk was a qualified coal miner, this discovery, was quite appealing to him. After discussing this with his wife and son Mac



Harry Holinski, Mike and Mac Paulichuk in front of the mine shack. (1935)



Mac and Mary Paulichuk and their sons Orest age 4 and Terry age 1 in 1948.

they decided to put his mine in production. During the fall of 1932 they started selling coal at $2.35 a ton. They could hardly keep up with the orders as people came from all over the district to buy coal. They had to pay the government 10¢ a ton royalty and the mine was continually supervised by a government inspector. One draw back with this coal seam, was that it was going on a downward incline and the water couldn't flow out of the mine on its own. By the time they got three hundred feet underground the water was too deep in the working area to go any further, unless a system was found to get this water out. At that time gas pumps were available, but wouldn't be safe in the closed area of the mine, so instead of getting electric power in, which would have

Mike Paulichuk, Mac Paulichuk, Harry Holinski, coming out of coal mine on S.E. 34-55-11 west of the 4th. 5 miles east of Duvernay, 1935.

been too costly, they decided to close the mine down instead.

In 1943 Mike Paulichuk's oldest son Mac married Mary Elkow. After they were married, they farmed for three years and during the same time bought stock at the Musidora stockyard. In 1946 they quit farming and started a hardware and machinery business in the village of Musidora. In 1965 he moved to Myrnam and got the Case dealership. In 1969 he opened a Case dealership in St. Paul. The following year, he quit the Case and took over the Versitile and New Holland and other short line dealership and opened a shop in the main industrial area of St. Paul, a move he never regretted. His two boys work with him and he plans on turning the business over to them soon and do a little travelling.

His son Orest married Madeliene Bykewich.

Terry married Gloria Pankrado.

DUVERNAY-BROSSEAU BRIDGE MOVED OVER FOR NEW OPEN DECK

by St. Paul Journal

BROSSEAU-DUVERNAY — The old pioneer couple was there at the turn of the century when a ferry plied across the North Saskatchewan River with its load of freight on covered wagons travelling from Vegreville to St. Paul.

They were there in 1930 when a bridge was constructed and the traffic was greatly expedited back and forth across the lifeline roads of North Eastern Alberta.

MR. AND MRS. GASTON BACHELET — Keeping an eye on operations which moved the Brosseau-Duvernay bridge temporarily to new pilings while a new one will be built. The old timers remember the ferry crossings and when the existing bridge was erected.

Mr. and Mrs. Gaston Bachelet were there again on Thursday, August 11th when the bridge was moved over on temporary piles so that a new one can be built on the same old cement pile that have withstood the test of time and weather and are still sound enough to hold the weight of a new modern open deck bridge.

As they sat quietly on their rocking chairs on the north side of the river, Mr. Bachelet who is 89 years old and his wife at 79 reminisced over the history that has flowed across the river over the years from the time they homesteaded until now.

There have been big changes, they commented, all for the better. It has been great to watch this country develop to the prosperity it has today handed down to our sons, their children, our grandsons and granddaughters.

The Duvernay-Brosseau bridge, a 1000-ton structure with four spans also carries extra weight of its deck and the asphalt, a complicated engineering feat to move.

For weeks there had been speculation how it was going to be achieved. Would they use overhead cranes, barges in the river. There were those who ventured that helicopters might be used to lift it off.

Actually it was all very simple. Five trucks drove onto the deck of the bridge before the ramps at each were pulled apart and the road bed dug out.

Anchored to the west end of the bridge with cables the truck used their winches and ¾-inch cable on double tackles at one attached to the bridge structure and the other to the end of the temporary pilings.

Five vehicles were used, controlled through radio so that all could pull in unison.

The bridge left opened to light traffic on Tuesday and Wednesday was closed Thursday morning when work began at 7 a.m. By 8:30 it started to move a few feet but some trouble developed at the centre and later it was found the structure had a tendency to slide towards the south river — about an inch. The problem was corrected and slowly it inched eastward. By about 11:30 the birdge had cleared its old cement pilings and was well on the way.

DUVERNAY-BROSSEAU BRIDGE — Top picture shows the bridge just as it moves off its cement pier, west side with winching truck anchored to corner of structure. Lower picture the bridge is coming up on its temporary steel stanchions which will hold it for traffic until a new open deck is built on the old supports. Traffic was disrupted all Thursday, August 11th resuming about 8 in the evening.

However, it took most of the day to get it back in place, repair the road approaches. Traffic started moving across at about 8 p.m. in the evening.

As we watched the final operation, Mr. Bachelet remembered that the bridge was started in November of 1930 and finished in June of 1931 when motorized traffic started to move across it in comparison to the ferry in the early 1900's when they carried buggies, covered wagons, and rigs pulled by horses, but more often by oxen.

Time rolls on. The new bridge will go into construction this year and will probably take a year or two to construct. When that is done, spans from the old bridge will be either removed in sections or dismantled to go across smaller rivers and streams. It is said one may be used for the Beach River.

The temporary steel pilings will then be disassembled, and the footings embedded to 40-foot depths will be dynamited.

It is hoped the new bridge will spur building a new highway, 36 Highway which has deteriorated to patch up and re-patch jobs — a road desperately in need of upgrading.

BRIDGE ON NEW PIERS — Looking north from the south side of the river, Duvernay-Brosseau bridge will sit on temporary steel piers until the new one is constructed.

THE LAKELAND

The **Lakeland** has more lake and more land than any other tourist zone in Alberta. Covering an area of over 117,000 square kilometers (46,000 square miles), it stretches from the **Battle River** in the southeast corner to the **Northwest Territories**; and from **Redwater** to the **Saskatchewan border.**

Included within the zone's boundaries are **two national parks** – Elk Island and Wood Buffalo. One of the largest **inland deltas** in the world is located near Fort Chipewyan.

Great lakes offer northern pike, perch, pickerel, walleye, trout, grayling, and whitefish. Try your luck in a myriad of sparkling lakes and rivers. Or **fly-in** for some fabulous fishing and hunting. Six of Alberta's seven **trophy lakes** are located in the Lakeland. Access to these lakes is limited, making wilderness fishing trips all the more challenging and rewarding.

Wilderness excursions, river trips, lakeshore explorations, and quiet fishing outings are all available here. Find your own hideaway, and memories.

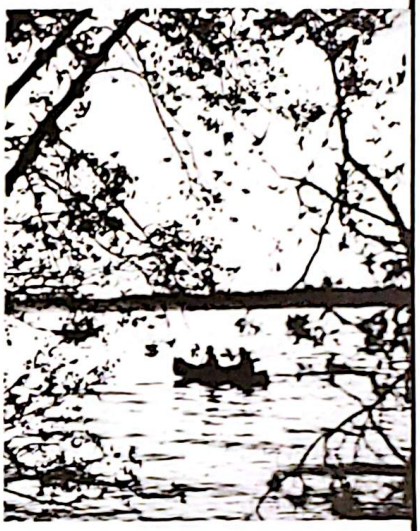
There's beautiful **Cold Lake**, and **Lac La Biche** with its pelicans; historical **Frog Lake**, and the **Cree** culture of **Saddle Lake**. Stop in at **Smoky Lake** for colorful Ukrainian articles.

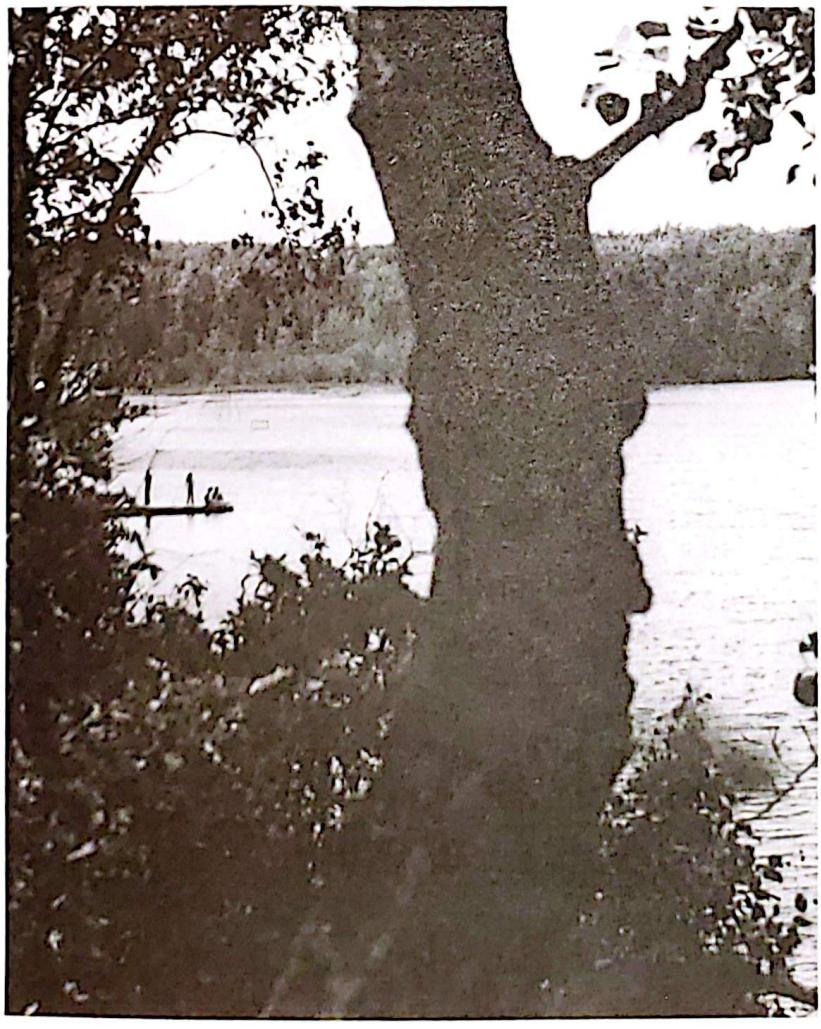
Drive the eastern Lakeland through some of the most beautiful rolling countryside anywhere. Visit booming **Lloydminster** – the only city in Canada in two provinces. Or bustling Fort McMurray – big city atmosphere 450 kilometers north of Edmonton.

The diverse ethnic backgrounds of the Lakeland are obvious at the many fairs, exhibitions, festivals and museums. See a Moslem **mosque** in Lac La Biche, **French** theater in St. Paul, a **Ukrainian** Festival in Vegreville, **Romainian** architecture near Shandro.

Camp on an island with long sandy beaches. Hike over the rocky Canadian Shield. Discover oil. Relive the rich history of the fur trade.

Tired of climbing mountains? or looking at glass and concrete towers? Come to the Lakeland and discover **the other Alberta.**



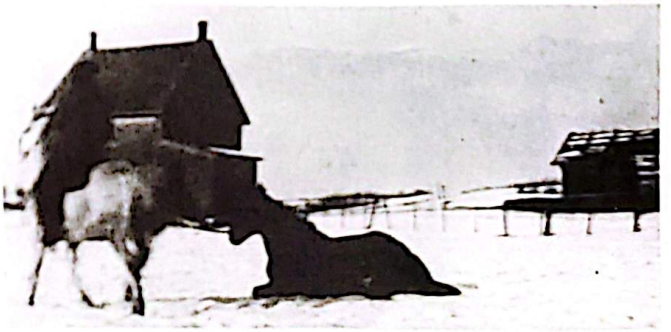


Before the advent of automobiles, horses were the popular means of travel. On the left is Joseph Brosseau, on his faithful horse, Charlie. Accompanied by his dog, Rover, he travelled many miles herding horses or cattle and visiting his homestead in St. Vincent. To the right is Frederick Lavallee.

THE HORSE...

Alex Kabage and his pinto saddle horse in 1922.

Branding Time on the ranch in 1922. Mr. English, Sandy Ferguson, Dick Fife and Garnett English.

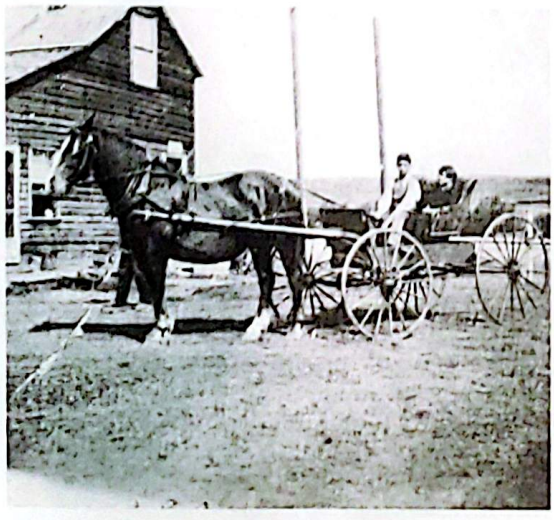


Hector Coutu halter breaking a wild horse on the farm in 1931.

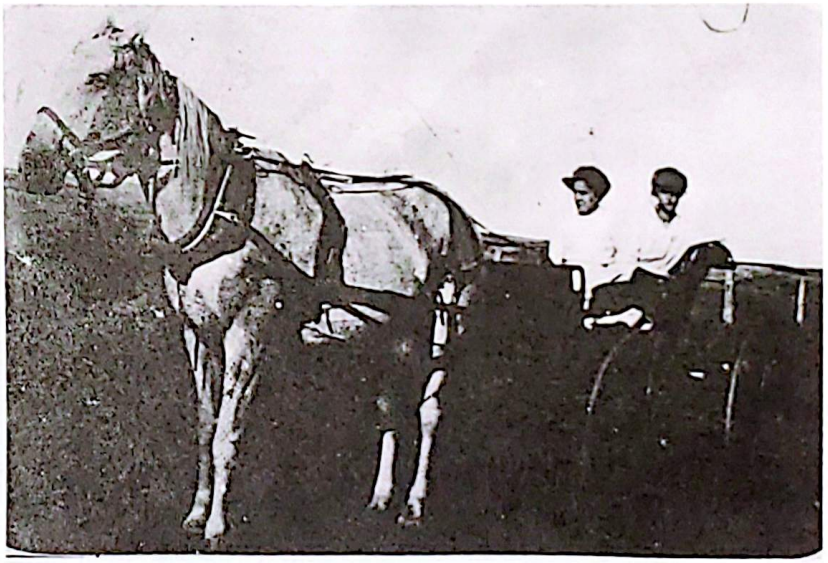
Mr. and Mrs. Leonel Girard and family going to town in style.

THE BUGGY...

Mr. and Mrs. Rheaume are most probably going to church.



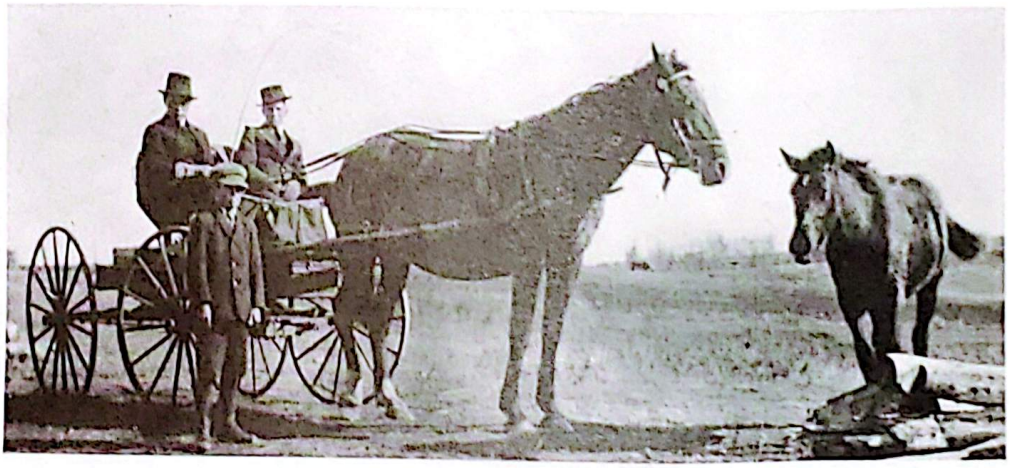
Joe Pare and Albina Ouellette in front of the Duvernay Post Office in 1926.



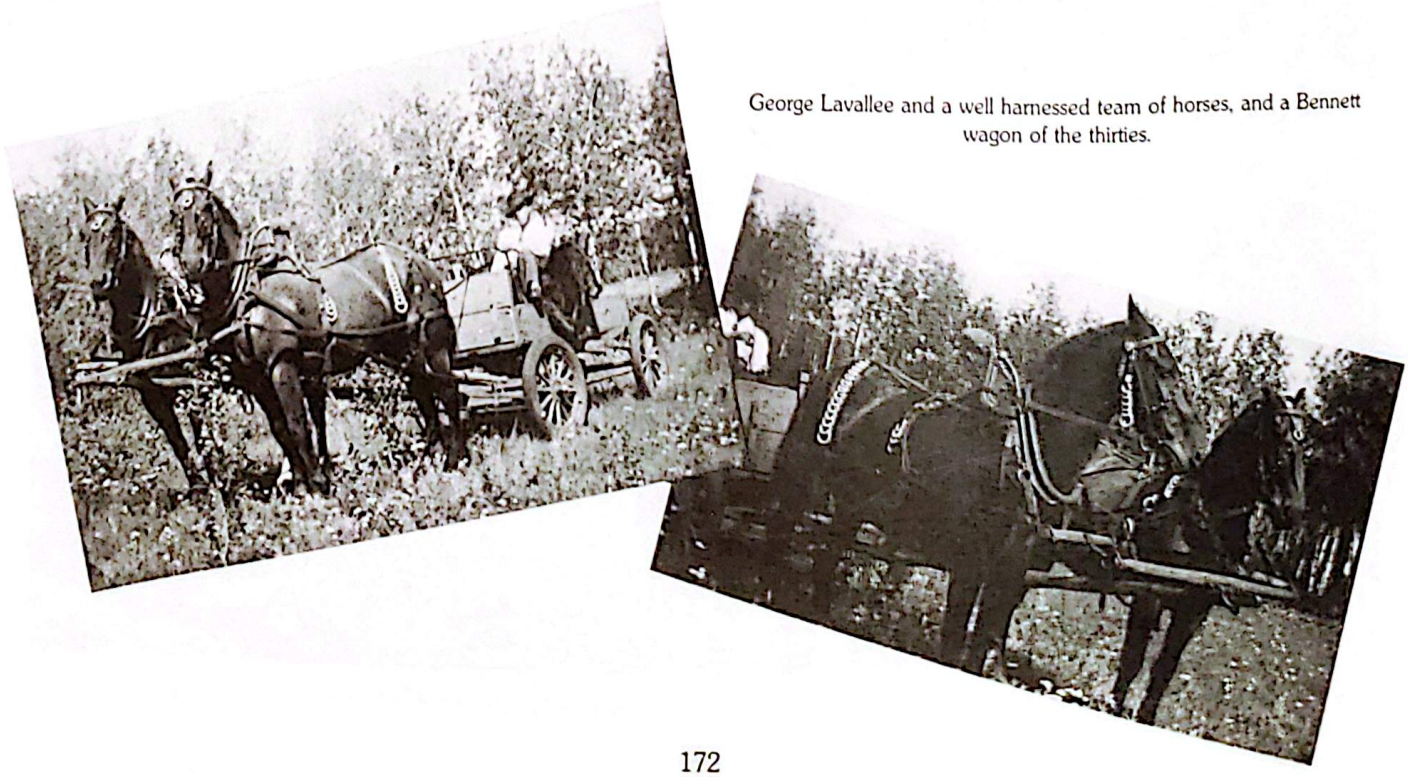
The Massee children driving five miles to school in 1918.

The Girard children heading for school with old Dobin.

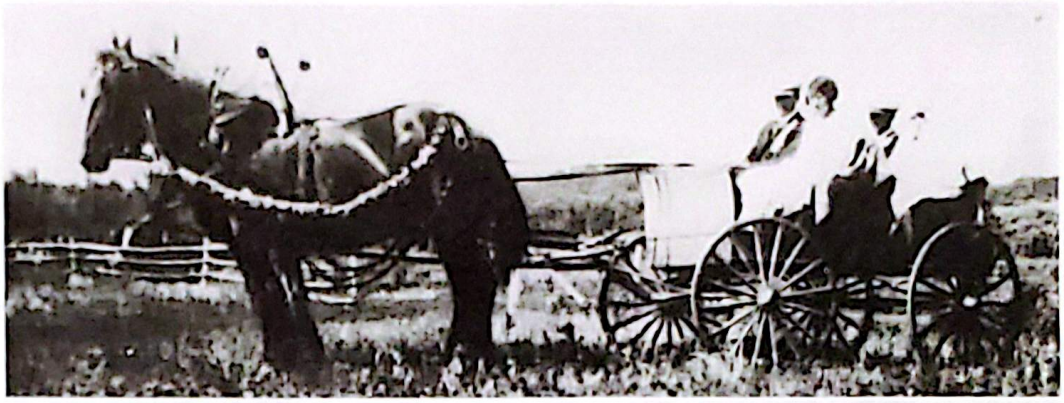
Albert Coutu in his automobile - 1924.



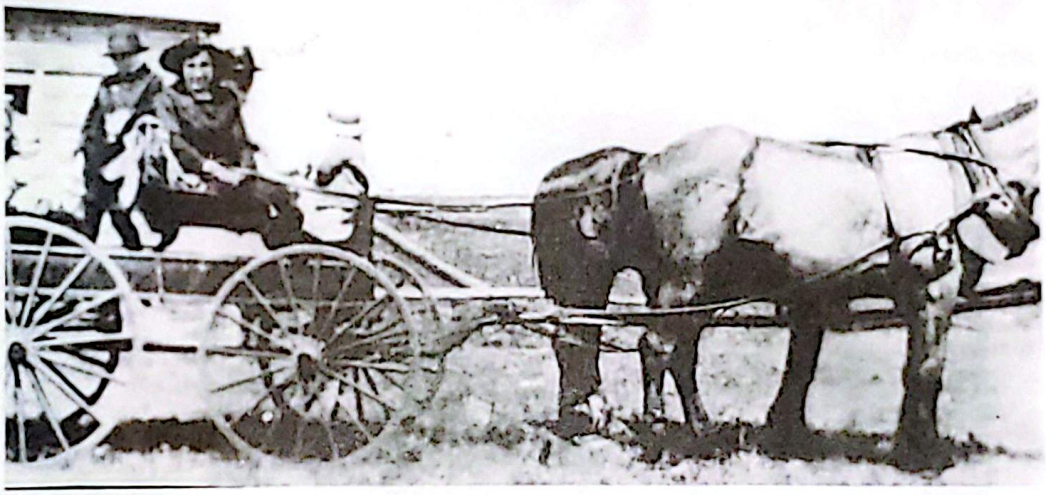
Rene, Louis and Roger Grenier.



George Lavallee and a well harnessed team of horses, and a Bennett wagon of the thirties.



A well decorated wedding of 1908.



Mrs. Grenier and Mrs. Girard going picking wild berries with the family (1919).

AND THE SLEIGH

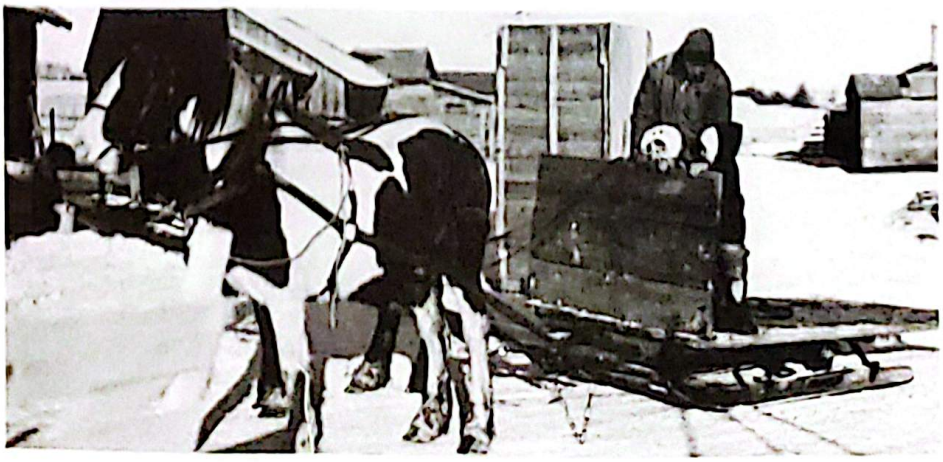
The early pioneers built their own sleighs.

These cabooses became popular in the thirties. They were firetraps. Little heaters were installed in them for heat. These teachers are leaving for school.

Omer Theroux and his lively team of horses.

In wintertime, the horse driven sleigh was most common before good roads were built. Albert Coutu and son Hector, in 1930.

Metro Chrapko and David Skakun getting ready to go to school in 1946.



Bob Tomlinson and grandchildren.

We Went West

—Donovan Clemson

OUR POEM . . . The Pioneers

The pioneers of long ago,
We honour them, and rightly so;
They never faltered in their quest
But came and opened up the West.

With sturdy hearts and muscles strong
They walked the early trails along.
In lonely spots they built their houses,
And lived contented with their spouses.

In cabin snug and soddy but
They may have felt constricted, but
They never suffered — let's be fair —
The hardships that they had to bear.

They never knew the rigors that
Attend a faulty-thermostat,
But being ignorant of meters
Kept nice and warm beside their heaters.

Our forebears never had to toil
To buy supplies of gas and oil;
Their heating was obtained for free
Simply by chopping down a tree

They never had to shovel snow,
Their horses did the work, you know;
And in their jolly little sleighs
They glided over wintry ways.

Their women too, were rarely cold,
Of Suffered agonies untold,
With whistling of the wintry breeze
Around their mini-skirted knees.

For, if we can believe the rumors,
They favored heavy woolen bloomers.
Also their skirts were long and sensible,
Although we think them reprehensible.

In March our forebears could relax;
There wasn't any income tax,
Their ears were not assailed by curses
Prompted by annual raids on purses.

And some of them who lived in sections
Beyond the tumult of elections
Were spared the politician's tale
As they could not be reached by mail.

The pioneers and their wives
Lived wholesome and inspiring lives.
We honour them, as I have said,
But don't forget — they had it made.

THE FAMILY HISTORIES

FRANK AUSTIN

by Lucia Robinson

Frank Austin was born Feb. 27, 1899 in Sanders, near London, England and was educated in Scouts School in London. At 14, being an orphan, he was at a loss, but a kindly minister took care of him and of a friend, George Brown. he gave them a choice — leave England and migrate to Australia, N.Z. Canada or U.S.A. The boys chose Canada and landed in Montreal. The happiest day of Frank's life was landing in this country of his choice.

Arrangements had been made with Phoebe Woodhouse (later McCullough) for Frank to come to Edmonton where she met him and found him a job. This she did by placing him on Tom McCullough's farm, where he worked for two years. In the ensuing years, Frank worked for the J.P. William Smith, Tom Clark, Joe Rioux for 4 years, Joe Brosseau, Sam English, Dick Fife (all pioneers of the Foisy, Chesterville, Duvernay, Brosseau, Two Hills Localities).

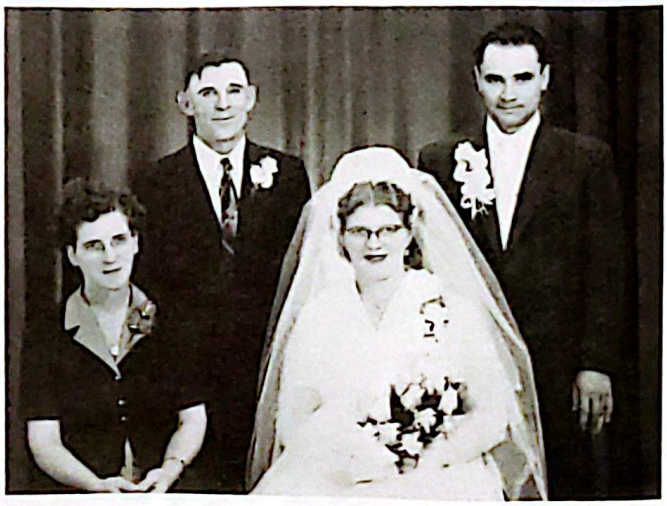
Frank, Mary and daughter on their farm, 1935.

It was in Chesterville that Frank met Mary Chester. She had come from New Zealand in 1904 with her parents, Mr. & Mrs. Jack Chester. It was a happy day for her when, July 1, 1915 the little country school of Chesterville opened its doors and Jenny Hutchinson welcomed her pupils. On March 12, 1930 Mary & Frank were married. They rented Joe Henley's farm in Foisy for 2 years and the Oliver Foisy farm in Lafond. Finally they moved to Home Sweet Home in Chesterville where they

Mary Austin's flock of turkeys on the farm, 1960.

worked hard and struggled to make a good life for their two children Amy (born 1930) and David (July 1, 1955). They always had a large garden, raised chickens, turkeys, and milked cows.

In 1965 Frank & Mary retired in St. Paul "damned tired". Frank worked for his church, as "jack of all trades" for several years, but because Mary had become an invalid, he stayed home to attend to her. Frank says "Mary is the best wife a man could ever have. From the time I courted her, four years before our marriage, she dragged me out of the ruts I was getting into with a wild bunch. Now, I can boast that my children have never seen me take a drink. That was left with the past 54 years ago and I am thankful and appreciative for her good influence.



Frank and Mary Austin with their daughter, Amy, and son-in-law Alex Bodnar, 1954.

I also raised two good children, Amy and Dave, who never gave me problems. Again, I can boast that I never had to raise a hand on them for discipline.

Frank has always been a happy man despite hard work and hard times. Mary was always most generous — never saying good-bye to her many friends without handing them a big box of vegetables, eggs or a quart of good thick farm cream. She is now in the nursing home in St. Paul and Frank is keeping the home fires burning.

Amy married Alex Bodnar and Dave married Henriette Malo. Mary and Frank can now count seven grand-children and three great-grandchildren.

Good luck happy Frank!

THE ARCHINUK FAMILY
NICK ARHINUK — THE PATRIARCH

by John and Paul Archinuk

One of the most colorful and well-known pioneers of Brosseau was Nick Archinuk who was born in Mamaestie, Bukowina, Austria, in 1873, where he had married a local girl, Gafitska Boychuk.

Nick Archinuk taken on the east side of the Duvernay Hotel after his retirement in 1943.

In the fall of 1908 Mr. & Mrs. Nick Archinuk with their sons Mike, John, Paul and 6-month old Peter left Austria, via Hamburg, Germany, on a cargo-freighter to land in Halifax, Canada. By train and on to Brosseau, they came to a homestead on NW¼ 2-56-11-W4th. He made a dug-out to live in but as it was starting to cave in he dug another while he built a log house.

Mrs. Archinuk was plastering the spaces between the logs, using the clay from the cellar. Being a short woman, she needed something to stand on to reach the upper logs, so, she made benches from logs placed across pegs driven in the mud floor. Unfortunately, the logs rolled throwing her to the floor. She was hospitalized in Vegreville, with internal injuries and, when discharged, Nick brought her home in his wagon. She never fully recovered and died in November 1918.

When Nick had taken his homestead, Joe Brosseau gave him two wild steers. Nick broke them to the yoke, and with them, broke land — 3 patches of 30 acres and seeded them by broadcasting the seed by hand. In the fall he had Mr. Toderuk cut the grain with a binder while Nick stooked for him. This grain was stacked and during the winter, for two months, Nick and sons flailed it, using the winds to blow the chaff away. Then it was bagged and hauled to Vegreville.

In the meantime, Mrs. Archinuk would put a bushel of wheat in a bag, and bring it to Mr. Logozar who had stones for grinding grain, and would have her flour made. Later on, she would bring it to a flour mill in Vegreville, with their oxen.

In 1919, Nick, at the death of his wife, sold his farm to Bill Verenka, put Mike in a Boy's Home in Vegreville and moved his family to Girard's house on NE 10-56-12-W4th. Here he had a stove near a bed. One day Steve who was a toddler, crawling off the bed, fell on the stove, burning his face. This was the last straw for Nick. He found foster homes for the children where they could work for food and lodging. Metro and Steve, the two youngest, he placed in an orphanage in Edmonton. Then he left, looking for jobs in Whitecourt, Drumheller, on the railroad etc. but never settling down for long at any place.

Finally he gave up his roving and came back to Brosseau where some of his family was still to be found. For many years he worked for the Brosseau brothers, Johnny, Alphonse, and Joe.

At Johnny's he pulled stumps, picked rocks, stooked and helped on the farm. Every spring, he would go to St. Paul, to work for Alphonse, cleaning the yard and planting the garden. He always claimed that Alphonse would never have a good garden unless Nick had put it in.

At Joe's (whom Nick always called Fatherika) Nick was given the nickname "Old Chinook" affectionately, and, soon it was adopted by the whole country-side. Here he was general handy-man.

One day he was busy cleaning the barn, when he heard a great commotion — a lot of yelling and crying — nearby. He knew that a wild cow was recuperating in a small corral next to the barn. He also knew that the Brosseau children were usually playing all over the farmyard. He rushed out to investigate. Those children had been climbing the rail fence when the oldest, Lucia,

had fallen into the corral. The cow was attacking her! Nick rushed over with his pitchfork, and shooed her away, while Lucia was helped out of the corral. She has always claimed that Old Chinook had either saved her life or, at least, prevented her from becoming maimed for life.

Another time Old chinook was angered by these children — but so was Mrs. Brosseau. The youngest of the family, Hermine, was just a baby and a new carriage had been bought for her. The older children had taken her for a stroll to meet Chinook, who would be bringing the cows home. The oldest boy, Joe, thought that the carriage was too plain, so he decided to decorate it. He broke branches off the trees along the road, and stuck them through the canvas top. He was admiring his achievement when Chinook came along. He was so angry!

Old Chinook had a language all his own! Some of his expressions are still heard and remembered. One spring he was to dust-treat the seed grain and Joe Brosseau, Fatherika, told him to be sure to wear his mask but Chinook refused: "Die nay die, I nay gaw-damn". Later, on another occasion he revised it to "Die nay die, I novem care." One day Nick and his son, Billy, were walking home during an electrical storm. They were following a wire fence which was struck by lightning. When Chinook told the story he said, "Da, my Belly faw down, me naw faw down!"

There is still evidence of Chinook's work in Brosseau. When Father Campeau was parish priest of St. Laurent Church, Nick helped him cleaning around and trimming the trees. A hedge of carraganas was to be planted at the top of the hill, so Chinook put in the "Caradinah".

Many more anecdotes could be told about Nick and his eccentricities, until his retirement in 1943, first in Duvernay at Anton Padlesky's and Dan Towpich's. Then he moved to St. Paul, to Wertypora's rooming house.

One day the R.C.M.P. were patrolling the streets when they noticed this old man fall off a bench. They went to investigate and found Old Chinook, unconscious, on the ground. They rushed him to the hospital, but he was declared dead upon arrival. This was in November 1946. He was interred in the Mamaestie cemetery.

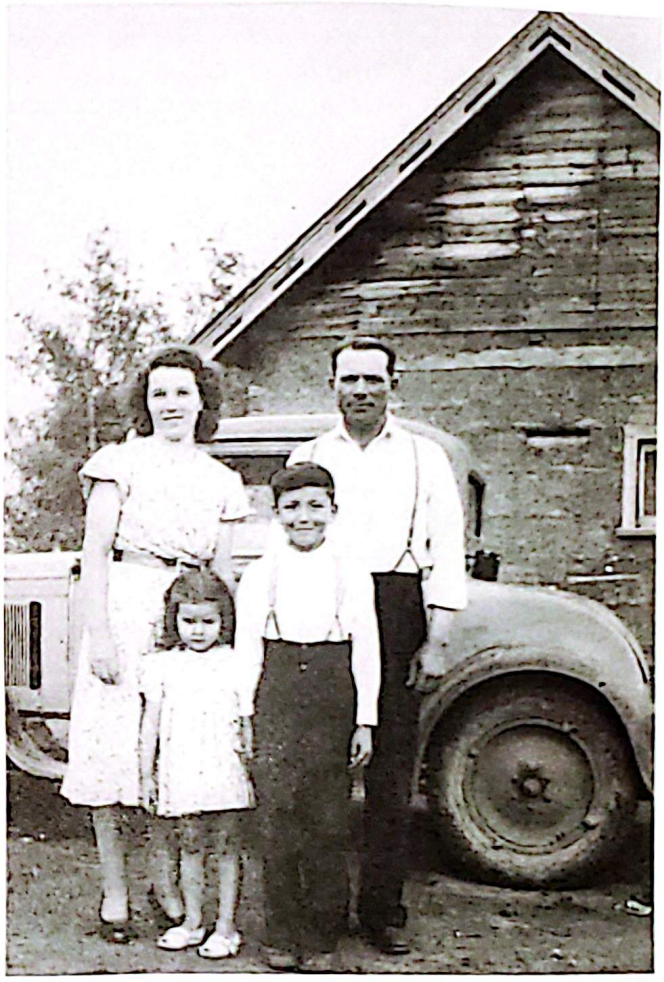
Nick Archinuk was a little man, but he was wiry and fast. He "Took no dirt" and acted upon impulse, sometimes to his sorrow.

Nick Archinuk had lost a daughter in Austria prior to coming to Canada. He was survived by:

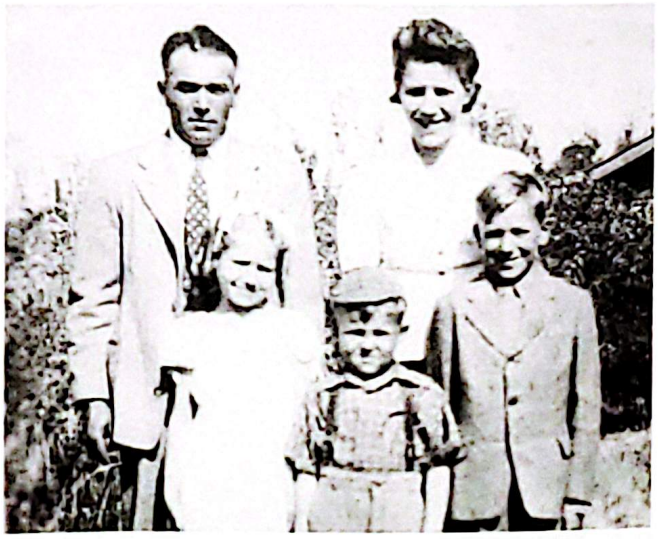
Mike — born in Austria, married Mary Harasym, has 10 children and lives in Victoria, B.C. He has changed his name to Mike Archer.

John — born January 4, 1905 in Austria, married Mary Harmatiuk, has four children, retired in Two Hills.

Paul — born February 26, 1905 in Austria, married Annie Sherstianka, has two children, retired in Two Hills.



Paul Archinuk and fmaily, Annie and Paul with Judy and Ernest on their farm in 1950.



Peter Archinuk and family, back left to right — Peter, Martha, children — Rose, Bobby and Richard.

Peter — born in Austria, married Martha Harmatiuk, has 5 children, Peter deceased.

Bill — born 1910, married Nancy Cherniakosky, has 5 children, lives in Lillooet, B.C.

Annie — born 1912, married (1) George Olynyk of Ispas, 4 children; (2) Charlie Riczul, has 4 children, lives in Edmonton.
Metro — born 1916, died March 6, 1980
Steve — born 1918, put out for adoption and cannot be traced.

JOHN ARCHINUK — NUMBER TWO SON

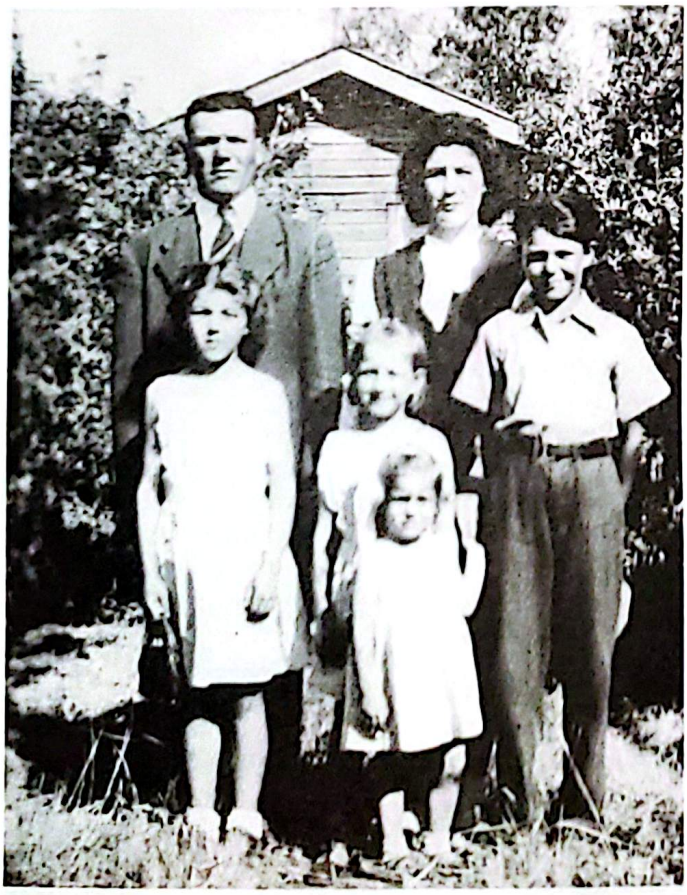
by John Archinuk

John Archinuk, second son of Mr. & Mrs. Nick Archinuk, was born January 4, 1905 in Austria, and came to Canada with his parents and brothers to his father's homestead in Brosseau, NW¼ 2-56-11-W4th.

John attended Mamaestie School long enough, to graduate from the grade one primer. Then he had to stay home to help his father. He had to lead the oxen while breaking the land, and working on the farm.

At 14 years of age John went to work for Geroge Lutzek in Shepenitz, Alberta, for one year and then for other farmers in the Two Hills-Kaleland areas. In 1922 he went to work on the C.N.R. work gangs.

In 1923-1925 John with brother, Paul, bought S½ 15-56-12-W4th and, with the rest of the family, farmed there, until 1933.



John Archinuk and family on Peter Archinuk's farm back — l to r John, Mary, Jack middle Elizabeth, Joyce, front Gladys.

In January, 1933 John married Mary Harmatiuk, daughter of Dan and Anna Harmatiuk, from Lac Bellevue. They were married by Rev. Chrustawka, in the Mamaestic Church.

John and Mary lived on the SW¼ 15-56-12-W4th until 1936 when he rented the farm to Alex Kabage to go shoemaking with his crippled brother, Bill, in Lafond. After one year there, Bill moved to Beauvallon, and John returned to the farm.

In 1951, John built a new house, and lived in it until 1959, when he left everything behind, and went to work in Whitecourt. He stayed there until he retired in Two Hills in 1976.

His children are:

Jack — December 14, 1934.
Elizabeth — born February 14, 1936, married Dave Chomik, has 5 children, lives in High Prairie.
Gladys — born July 31, 1943, married Henry Mytrash, has 2 children, lives in St. Paul.
Joyce — married John Krawchuck Aug. 24, 1963.

JACK ARCHINUK

by John Archinuk

Jack, only son of Mr. & Mrs. John Archinuk, was born in the St. Paul hospital on December 14, 1934 (the first one too, in this long line of children). He attended the St. Laurent School, until centralization of schools took place in 1949, and then to the Two Hills School where he graduated from Grade 12 in 1954.

He went working out in various locations, and helped his father on the farm until 1958 when he found steady employment at Western Chemicals Plant in Duvernay. From 1959-1968 he was steam engineer, and in 1968 became steamfitter apprentice, finally obtaining his certificate in 1972. Jack is still employed at the same plant, now known as the Two Hills Chemicals Ltd. with farming as a sideline.

Jack, Sandra, Lucille, Brian and Mark.

On February 16, 1938 Jack married Lucille Plante, daughter of Louis Plante (born in Ontario) and Emerentienne Ouellette (from Chicoutimi, Quebec), born October 29, 1938.

Jack and Lucille have three children:

Sandra — March 22, 1967
Brian — April 14, 1968
Mark — May 24, 1971

Jack claims he has gained the reputation of being always last to do things — especially when it comes to repairing things; he is always late in going places!

Mike Archinuk and family in New Westminster, l to r — Peter, Pauline, Mike, Mary, Florence, Lena, Lillian. The small ones are Kathleen and Gordon (1945).

PAUL ARCHINUK

by Paul Archinuk

Paul Archinuk, third son of Mr. & Mrs. Nick Archinuk, was born in Austria, February 26, 1906 and accompanied his parents and brothers to a homestead near Brosseau NW¼ 2-56-11-W4th in 1908.

Paul attended Mamaestie School for two years while staying, for room and board in exhange for work, at Nick Jacura's. There, Mr. Jacura bought one pair of boots for his wife and Paul. Whoever got up first in the morning got to wear the boots. One morning, in winter, Paul was late, so had to go for the cows bare-footed, about two miles away. He froze both feet. When his father saw him, with blistered feet, he took him to Joe Brosseau's home, where Paul stayed for two weeks while Joe doctored him.

Then Paul went to John Mazar's place. There he could attend the old Two Hills School for three days a week, but had to work the other three days on the farm.

In 1918, while staying at the Girard farm, Paul caught the Spanish Influenza, which was ravaging the whole country. John and his father did not contact it because they used the best medicine to combat the germs — alcohol and garlic. When Paul recovered from his malady he was sent to the Boys' Home in Vegreville, where he stayed for one year. Then he worked for old Mr. Sherstianka, Maftai's father, for $30 a year; for Bill Kucheran for $75 a year and for Pete Seminiuk for $150 a year. Finally he went to Mike's homestead.

In 1922 Paul with his brothers, worked for the CNR on track gangs until they had enough money to buy S½ 12-56-12-W4th. Because they were too young to purchase land on their own, they had Mike buy it for them, in 1923. During 1924 and 1925 they improved their farm, and built a log house. In 1926 Peter took over but could not swing it, so Paul decided to try his luck in 1927. With the backing of Alphonse Brosseau, seed from Johnny Brosseau and horses to be broken from Joe Brosseau, Paul managed to put in a crop, and harvest it. From then on, he continued farming.

On October 29, 1939 Paul married Annie Sherstianka, daughter of Peter Sherstianka (who had come from Paul's homeplace in Austria) and Domka Severyn of Ispas, Alberta. They were married in their home, by Reverend Hannochko from Bellis, Alberta. It was a quiet wedding at Annie's home and then at John Archinuk's. They went for a honeymoon to Paul's house at the south east corner SE¼ 15-56-12-W4th where they remained until they retired in Two Hills on July 1, 1974.

In 1955 Paul had built a new house to replace the log cabin he had on the quarter.

Paul and Annie have two children:

Ernest — born November 12, 1940, married Gladys Kuchmak, living in Edmonton.
Judy — born September 14, 1945, married Roger Bouchard, living in St. Paul.

CLARENCE ARTHUR AHLSTROM

Clarence Ahlstrom lived a colorful life coming to Canada in 1902 to join his father, who came in 1900, with Frank and Ernest Johnston all Norwegians from Minnesota. Clarence and his brother Melvin, came by stage to Old Vegreville and from there on foot to his father's homestead. As a 14 year old boy, he and his brothers Oscar and Melvin, homesteaded in the Beauvallon area. Their main livelihood at that time was furs and in one year they caught 117 coyotes, 500 rats and 27 lynx. Trapping became his greatest pleasure to the end of his life. At one time he farmed five quarters of land and did it all with horses. In 1943 he bought the first tractor and power machinery to replace the horses. During the 1930's oats sold for 20¢ a bushel, so after 74 years in Alberta he had seen lots of change.

On February 1st, 1976, Clarence Ahlstrom passed away in Vancouver B.C. while visiting his daughter. Survived by one daughter Hazel and one son Charles whom he lived with on the farm a few miles from Two Hills.

He was predeceased by his first wife, Tina in 1924 and his second wife Viola in 1940. He enjoyed his nine grandchildren and 20 Great grandchildren. They must have fond memories of him, as his family always came first in his life.

THE SAGA OF THE BROSSEAU FAMILY

by Joseph A. Brosseau

The genealogical survey of the Brosseau family in Canada dates back to 1668, with the arrival, in Canada, of (1) Denis, who left St. Sebastien sur Loire (near Nantes, France) to settle in Laprairie, Quebec (near Montreal) and married Marie Madeleine Louise Hubert October 15, 1670.

(2) His son, Pierre married Barbe Bourdon in 1698, and again Perrine Golin.

(3) Pierre married Marie Anne Penneau in 1745.

(4) Francois married Marie Josette Paquette in 1778.

(5) Etienne married Ursula Mequin in 1808.

(6) Antoine married Marie Genevieve Samson in 1834. He died and was buried near Quesnel, B.C. during the Cariboo Gold Rush, during which time he was given the nickname "Dragon".

A family photo of one of the earliest pioneers of Brosseau taken in 1917 Edmond Brosseau and his sisters: to the left is Eliza Brisette to the left is Hermine Smith both of St. Paul-Minneapolis, Minnesota, U.S.A. Mrs. Philomena Green's husband, John, and her son, Jack, are buried in the Brosseau Cemetery. She is buried in Mayerthorpe, Alberta. Other members of her family and their descendents are to be found in Oklahoma and California.

Edmond Hector Brosseau, son of Antoine Brosseau and Marie Genevieve Samson was born October 7, 1843, at Laprairie, Quebec. When he was two years old his family moved across the border to Plattsburg, New York, U.S.A. He stayed with his parents until his twenty-first birthday. He had three sisters: Philomena Green, Hermine Smith and Elize Brisette.

Edmond volunteered into the United States Army on September 8, 1864 and served with the New York Veteran Cavalry, 2nd Regiment, at the same time as William Cody (Buffalo Bill) and both because scouts for the Union Army.

One day he felt ill so went on muster parade. The doctor of the Medical Corps diagnosed his problem as dysentry and prescribed some pills, the dosage being written on the box. As Edmond did not know how to read, he took the whole box at once. The dose was too strong so he consequently did not know what happened to him. His superiors thought him either dead or captured by the southern soldiers. In fact, a person had seen a horse with its saddle still on, grazing by the side of the road. Upon investigation he found a soldier unconscious on the ground. He hid the horse and took care of the soldier until he was completely recovered. Upon his return to his unit his superiors could not believe their eyes. After hearing the explanation for his absence and an examination they told him that he must have the constitution of an ox to survive such an ordeal.

After his honorable discharge from the Army, August 23, 1865, he took off for New York City, got on a ship for Colon, crossed the Isthmus of Panama by train, took again to the ocean and headed for California. There the gold mines attracted him. In this type of occupation "Many try their luck but fail in the attempt". He, therefore, decided to go and visit his father and his aunt, Mrs. Philomena Green, who had moved to Quesnel, B.C. Again he tried his luck in the Cariboo gold fields.

In 1872 wanderlust got the best of him again. This time he headed for the Cariboo Trail for what was to be the most painful and hazardous voyage of his whole life — from Quesnel to Good Fish Lake, Alberta. Leaving Quesnel, he wandered through Northern British Columbia. He would tell his sons about bathing in the hot-spring waters of Pocahontos (now Miette Hot Springs). Finally he wandered into Alberta through the Monkman Pass. After travelling the Peace and Athabasca Rivers and Lesser Slave Lake he arrived at Good Fish Lake. His boots were tattered and torn from portaging the various falls and rapids along the way. There he met a surveyor Peter Erasmus. Edmond wanted to barter a pair of moccasins for gold but Peter would not hear of it. "If you can travel like an Indian, you should walk like one," and gave him a pair of new moccasins. He was planning to return to Quebec.

Later he met Reverend Henry Bird Steinhauer, a missionary, at White-Fish Lake. (Later Edmond was to say that it was the first time he had ever seen a bald Indian.) In their conversation he learned that Father Lacombe had arrived from Quebec with a group of settlers who were to take homesteads in St. Albert. So, borrowing a white horse from Rev. Steinhauer and promising to return it, left for St. Albert to meet these new people. At Fort Victoria (Pakan) he left the horse with an Indian band camping there and resumed his journey to Fort Edmonton, panning for gold along the banks. He reached St. Albert in 1876 where he decided to try his luck at farming. He took a homestead west of the Mission.

That same year he married Julie L'Hirondelle. Julie was born at Grouard west of Lesser Slave Lake in 1840. Her father Jean-Baptiste L'Hirondelle worked for the

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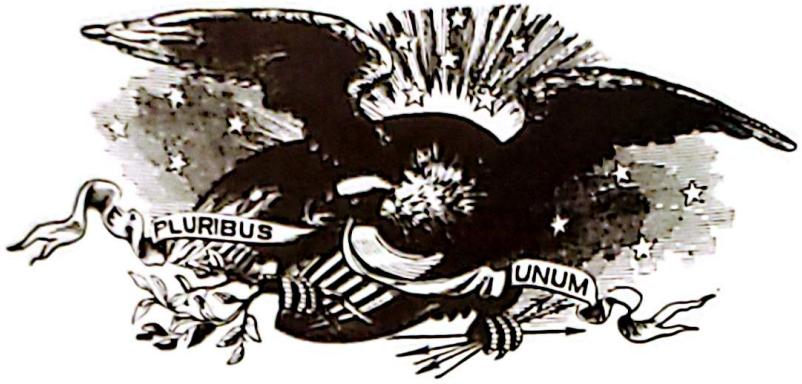
DISCHARGE CERTIFICATE.



To all Whom it May Concern:

Know ye That Edmund Brosseau, a Private of Company H, Second Regiment of New York Veteran Cavalry VOLUNTEERS, who was enrolled on the eighth day of September, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-four, to serve one year, was Discharged from the service of the United States on the twenty-third day of August, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-five, by reason of General Order #83, War Department, 1865.

This Certificate is given under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved July 1, 1902, "to authorize the Secretary of War to furnish certificates in lieu of lost or destroyed discharges," to honorably discharged officers or enlisted men or their widows, upon evidence that the original discharge certificate has been lost or destroyed, and upon the condition imposed by said Act that this certificate "shall not be accepted as a voucher for the payment of any claim against the United States for pay, bounty, or other allowances, or as evidence in any other case."

Given at the War Department, Washington, D. C., this twenty-third day of November, one thousand nine hundred and sixteen.

By authority of the Secretary of War:

P. C. Harris,

Adjutant General.

Form No. 160—A. G. O.
Ed. Apr. 8-16—3,000.

Hudson Bay Company buying furs from the Indians, and her mother was Catherine Loyer. Julie married Wenceslaus Bruneau (also written Bruno) in 1863 and had one child, Catherine, born in 1865. After two years of marriage Wenceslaus died suddenly.

On July 17, 1875 Julie married Edmond Brosseau in St. Albert. After the wedding breakfast at her sister's place, Mrs. Octave Mageau's, he changed into his work clothes and spent the day hoeing his potatoes.

Edmond Brosseau and Julie had nine children: Elizabeth (1877 - 1879), Edmond Jr. (1878), Marie Louise (1880), Joseph (1882), Jean-Baptiste (1884), a still-born daughter (1886), a boy (1888) and Alphonse Thomas (1890).

The children attended the school of the Grey Nuns in St. Albert. Edmond went on to take a commercial course under the guidance of a tutor. Alphonse went to the small seminary because his mother had hopes that he would become a priest. He was the only one in the family to study the French language. Joe would always say to his boys, "Well sons, it was this way. I walked into the school and as the teacher was not there I walked right through and out the back door." In fact he did attend school but truancy was too much of a temptation. Edmond did insist that they get some education because he had none (but he was a whiz with figures, and had a good business acumen).

In 1889, the Hudson Bay Company closed their trading post in St. Albert, and Edmond saw the opportunity to go into the retail business. His first store was in the Narcisse Beaudry house (16 St. Vital Avenue) where he rented a small corner. Business prospered and the following year he built his own store which stood for many years at the north end of the bridge which spans the Sturgeon River (corner Piron and Mission Street). When this building was torn down quite a few years later, one of the workers found, between the walls, a copy of an advertisement printed in the Montreal Star dated August 18, 1898. Under the picture of a beaver were the words: "E. BROSSEAU, DRY GOODS, GROCERIES, READY-MADE CLOTHING, GENTS' FURNISHINGS, HATS, CAPS, BOOTS, SHOES, ETC, ST ALBERT, ALBERTA."

In 1900 Edmond sold this store in St. Albert, to Hebert & Perron, and moved to Edmonton, where he opened a store in partnership with Mr. Gariepy. They operated this store together at the corner of Jasper Avenue and 100 Street. This partnership did not last for more than two years. Edmond sold his share to Mr. P.E. Lessard, who later became a senator.

This American Civil War veteran, ex-goldminer, ex-businessman decided to leave civilization and return to the wilderness. He chose a spot on the North Saskachewan River, approximately 100 miles north-east of Edmonton, across from South Bend, N.W.T. Here was a natural ford used by the Indians in their nomadic wanderings and by early traders. This site had been the St. Paul des Cris Mission established by Rev. Father Lacombe when he attempted to teach Agriculture to the Indians. This ill-fated mission had been destroyed by a prairie fire and, in this same valley, an encampment of Indians had been wiped out by smallpox.

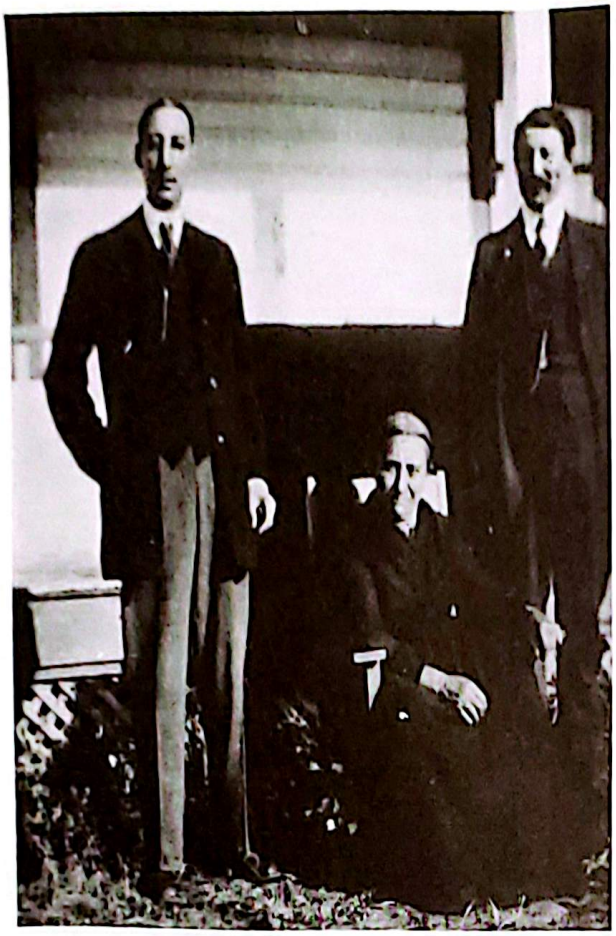
Edmond Hector Brosseau's log shack on his homestead in St. Albert, Alberta, 1876.

In the spring of 1902, Edmond bought section 35-55-12 W4 from the C.P.R. With his cousin, Francois-Xavier Brosseau, and Baptiste Pepin (an ex-guide for Father Lacombe and Bishop Grandin) he floated a scow down the river from Edmonton, bringing a cow, some chickens, building material and equipment to build a house. His sons Edmond, Joe and Jean-Baptiste drove a herd of horses overland along the north banks of the river, arriving on July 12, 1902. At first they lived in a shack abandoned by ranchers. They built a house, a huge log granary, a big barn, stock shelters, a log corral built in four tiers and finally a store.

In 1904, Edmond returned to Edmonton, with his carpenter, to build a huge scow on the banks of the river in time for high waters when the snows of the Rockies melt at the end of June. This huge square vessel was built of strong planks. It had four paddles, one at each corner to guide it downstream. In the meantime Edmond scoured the wholesalers in Edmonton to pack household effects. When the scow was ready they loaded it and Mrs. Brosseau with the daughter, Marie Louise embarked.

At their destination snubbing-posts, about a foot and a half in diameter were dug on top of the bank of the river. Waiting were four or five stout men with ropes having a grappling hook tied to one end. Slowly the scow was edged along the bank until the men could throw their ropes to hook it. They would then pull and wrap the ropes around the posts. When the scow was at the shore the passengers disembarked and the provisions and household effects were unloaded. Afterwards the scow was dismantled and the planks used in building around the homestead.

While the scow was going down the river, Alphonse accompanied by Joe and hired help, Mageau, came by land with two wagons loaded with machinery, seed grain and farming supplies.



Mr. Edmond Brosseau Jr., Mrs. Julie Brosseau, and Edmond Green, a son of Philomena (Brosseau) Green. 1917.

In 1917, Edmond went to visit relatives in St. Paul-Minneapolis, Minn., U.S.A. While there be became sick and was taken to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester where he died during surgery on September 19, 1917. His body was returned to Brosseau and internment was in the cemetery which he had donated to the parish in 1907.

In 1927, Alphonse moved to St. Paul to open up the Brosseau Bros. Department store with his brother, Edmond Jr. leaving his business in Brosseau to be run by Charles F. Callahan.

First house built by Edmond H. Brosseau on SW¼ 35-55-12 W4, in 1902 and finished in 1904. The cowboy could be Joe Brosseau and his wife, Lucie, standing with the dog, Rover. The picture had to be taken after July 1913.

In 1905, the province of Alberta was formed. The C.N.R. was built through Vegreville, Alberta, and South Bend was renamed Duvernay. Now the freight was being shipped through it and Brosseau to other places which were opening further north. A post-office was opened with Edmond as the first post-master. Roads were being built so the Brosseau store was off the beaten path.

Edmond had the valley surveyed in 1906, into the hamlet of Brosseau, with River Avenue following the river, Brosseau Street to the hill away from the flats. He moved his store to a new location east of the junction of these streets and built a new house near it for Edmond Jr. Then it was as much a fur-trading outpost as a general store and stopping place for freighters from Vegreville to St. Paul and Cold Lake.

On April 10, 1907 Edmond Brosseau Jr. married Adele Delisle, whose father had a homestead neighboring his father's farm in St. Albert.

In 1911, Edmond opened a new store in St. Paul, Alberta, and his son, Edmond Jr. became manager. He gave his other son, Alphonse, a half share in the Brosseau store. Joe was the farm manager and Jean-Baptiste homesteaded the NW½ 2-56-12 W4. John married Blanche Lafond of Lafond, Alberta on June 7, 1910. Joe married Lucie Coutu of St. Laurent, Manitoba on June 10, 1913.

In 1915, Alphonse married Hazel Latimer and was given full share in the Brosseau business, the house in Brosseau and a 22 fraction of land adjoining it.

In 1930, a bridge was built over the North Saskatchewan River to replace the ferries which had been operating since 1904. In 1938 a new highway from Vegreville to St. Paul was constructed by way of the bridge. Again the Brosseau store was by-passed. This time it was closed and the property deeded to Joe Brosseau who donated the building to the parish as a community hall. The business was relocated for C.F. Callahan to the north-west corner of SW¼ 35-55-12 W4. The original house on SW¼ 35-55-12 W4 was finally demolished in 1939 and the old store in 1955. The house near the last location of the store was sold to Mr. Martin Lavallee and moved.

The Brosseau Brothers pursued their business still further. Edmond Jr. passed away in 1928 after which his son, Hector, bought Alphonse's share in St. Paul. Alphonse went on to open a business in Bonnyville which he managed until his death on October 22, 1973. His sons Wilfred and Paul are still operating it and are training some of their own sons to follow in their footsteps.

Mrs. Julie Brosseau died in November, 1935, aged 92 years old, and is buried in Brosseau.

In 1946 Jean-Baptiste sold his farms and retired in Edmonton until April 23, 1976 when he passed away.

Joe acquired more land and remained on the original farm until he retired in Bonnyville in 1964. He passed away on April 27, 1965 and was buried near his parents in the Brosseau cemetery.

Now, Joe's son, Maurice, farms the homeplace. He has four sons Roger, Maurice, David and Thomas to carry on the name. No one knows if one of these will carry on in the footsteps of his ancestors and farm this historical site. Only time will tell!

JOSEPH BROSSEAU — THE RANCHER

by the Family

Joseph (Joe) Brosseau was born July 29, 1882 in St. Albert, Alberta. He, with his brothers, Edmond and Jean-Baptiste (Johnny) drove a herd of horses along the north shores of the North Saskatchewan River, in 1902, to a homestead in Brosseau, which his father Edmond Hector Brosseau had acquired from the C.P.R. He became the farm manager for his father and lived with him. He took homesteads, too, but not in Brosseau.

Joseph Brosseau and his bride Lucie Coutu on their wedding day June 10, 1914.

After his father's death in 1917 he took over the holdings along the river. On June 10, 1913, he married Lucie Coutu, a descendnt of Marie-Anne Lagimodiere, the first white woman to come to Fort des Prairies, later known as Fort Edmonton. Lucie had come to visit her uncle, Albert Coutu, Brosseau, but remained to teach at Champlain School, which was near his home. There she met Joe, a cowboy who roamed the country side, checking his herds of cattle and horses. Joe had to spend a great deal of time in the barn on the day of the wedding. The previous day, during a huge electrical storm, lightning struck the barn, killing his insured, registered stallion in a box-stall. The appraisers chose this time to make their appearance. Fortunately, they left early enough for Joe and Lucie to motor to Vegreville, where they were catching a train, next morning, for Winnipeg, Manitoba.

I, Lucia, the oldest daughter, will tell the story as I remember it:

Grandpa Brosseau had built another house in the hamlet of Brosseau, so Dad and Mom, on their return from Winnipeg lived on, in the original home-place.

Joe Brosseau's farmstead in Brosseau from 1903-1939.

I can remember the steady flow of hired men Dad hired to do the farming while he was kept busy, going for repairs to St. Paul, Vegreville, Edmonton and even North Battleford after he acquired his power machinery. When the men were working the sections near Champlain, he would have to keep them stacked with food, which they ate in a caboose. In 1929, on one section of land he had to hire two more threshing machines to help finish harvesting a bumper crop of wheat. It took a month! Unfortunately, that fall prices dipped so low that he sold it for 29¢ a bushel and, almost lost his shirt. So many residents tell of helping haul this crop to town during the winter.

In his pastures he kept large herds of cattle, of mixed breeds which he supervised daily. As a little girl in winter, we were not allowed outdoors, in the morning, while these herds filed down to their water-hole on the river. They were so wild! One time a trucker came to load the cattle Dad was shipping to market. The cattle were rounded into the corral and sorted, before loading. One big steer jumped out of the stock-rack, over the cab, and off into the bush. Dad did not bother to go for him until a few days later when he found him, shot him and we ate the beef at home.

Dad was also a member of the Percheron Association for years. He imported a mare, Eulalie, from France, and bought a stallion, Kopek, from the George Lane Ranch near High River, Alberta. It was a great day for us when he rounded-up the horses, to drive them into the corral. Nearby was a granary with stairs leading up to a platform where we could sit and observe the activities below. One day all we children had climbed there in anticipation, having to push our younger brother, Maurice, up those stairs. To our surprise Dad walked back home leading his saddle-horse, Johnny, and no horses. He dropped the reins for the hired man, Nick Archinuk (whom we called Old Chinook) and walked to the house. We called him to help us get Maurice down but he sent Old Chinook for him. Later we found out that Johnny had stepped in a badger hole, tripped, throwing Dad out of the saddle. Dad had a broken collar bone. That was his last horse-back ride!

Joe Brosseau, at his prime, 1939.

The house built on Joe Brosseau's farm in 1939, on the same spot as Father Lacombe's ill-fated mission of St. Paul des cris, and where Mr. Edmond Brosseau had his first house built in 1903.

In 1939, Dad built a new house. First he and Mr. Pigeon of St. Paul moved the old house to a spot nearer the river, and on the same spot put the new one. Neilson Construction of Edmonton had the contract and Mr. Leader was the forman. Later on the old house was cut in two, one half converted to a garage and chicken coop. The other half was moved to brother Joe's acreage on the hill.

After World War II it became difficult to get hired men, so Dad disposed of much of his land, retaining only the two sections, 35 & 36-55-12-W4th, along the river.

While working on stories for this book I was reminded of another facet of my father's life. They remember him as a good doctor and as a dentist. Now, I can remember some of his remedies. He de-loused with coal oil; made mus-kee-kee from a herb for refreshing flu victims; made a drink brewed from the Yarrow (herbe-a-dinde) to reduce fever; a wad of chewing tobacco for insect bites; mud to reduce the itchiness of nettles; a mixture of lard, gunpowder and sulphur to cure the "Seven-year itch"; the common sulphur and molasses as a spring tonic; a brew of red-willow bark to relieve Diarrhoea, and it was also used for scours in young calves: etc.

Although not a dentist, Dad had many patients, usually men or children. As a sedative for men, he would give them a good slug of whiskey before extracting a troublesome tooth. Children did not cause problems because temporary teeth are easily pulled. As a reward he would give them a nickel, or, a ride home in his car, which at that time was a treat. He always took great precautions with his dental forceps, sterilizing them before use. Since there were no dentists within easy distance, his services were greatly appreciated.

Another subject mentioned was his gigantic size. He was 6'½" tall and at one time weighed 365 pounds. He always joked about being portly. When walking on the wooden plank sidewalks of St. Paul the people could hear him coming for a block. Great amusement was created in the beer parlors in St. Paul. He would bet that no one could guess his weight — the loser to treat the "house". He did not often lose!

On February 25, 1954, Mom passed away in the Vegreville General Hospital and was laid to rest in the Brosseau cemetery.

Dad remained on the farm with Maurice and young Joe (as my brother was usually called by our neighbors) until 1964 when he retired in Bonnyville to be near his brother, Alphonse, and an old school chum. He passed away April 27, 1965, a week after the funeral of another friend Charles F. Callahan. Dad was buried beside Mom in the Brosseau cemetery, and near his father and mother.

Following Dad's mortal remains to Brosseau, two scenes symbolizing his life were witnessed. First, we had to wind our way through a herd of cattle which was being moved along the highway. Then, closer to the church, a mare and colt were silhouetted across the sky-line. After the service at the grave-site a large group of Indians from

Saddle Lake, burst out in song — a hymn in Cree (a language Dad could speak fluently) out of respect to a man who had always befriended them. A hush fell over the assembled congregation, in awe.

My parents were survived by seven children:

Lucia Robinson, Florence Mailloux, Joseph Alexandre, Maurice, Edouard (who passed away in 1969), Regina Boychuk and Hermine Butcher.

My brother, Maurice, is presently farming the old homeplace. He has four sons to carry on the name, but which will carry on the occupation! Three generations have already possessed this historic landmark, following the dream of a courageous pioneer.

JOSEPH ALEXANDRE BROSSEAU

by Joe A. Brosseau

As I sit in my room, writing my life story for the Brosseau-Duvernay History Book, I cannot help reminiscing on a beautiful childhood that has passed like a breeze, and on to a few more years of happiness. Here I am a helpless handicapped patient who has to depend on a typewriter to make myself understood. Yet, I do not ask for sympathy! I am thankful that I can still rely on some of my faculties to do things I can enjoy.

My sisters, Lucia and Florence were born before me and I made my appearance on the nineteenth of June in 1917. I was the first baby boy, born to Joseph Brosseau and Lucie Coutu, and was rather spoilt by my father and uncle Alphonse. Life to me was a big picnic from morning to bedtime. I had a voracious appetite, and, when I was two years old I could eat six eggs for breakfast. Mother was concerned but Dad said to let me have all I wanted because I was active enough and needed much food to conserve my energy. You see, Dad was a big man who had, at one time, weighed more than three hundred and fifty pounds. He believed in feeding us well. Today people would frown at his methods since nutrition has become such an obsession.

I attended school in Vegreville at St. Martin's and boarded at the convent until 1929. Then I attended the Jesuit College in Edmonton until 1937. In 1938-39 I went to Greer College in Chicago where I took a course in heavy engineering in aero, diesel and auto maintenance. I was then offered a job at the nickel mines at Red Lake in Northern Manitoba. I did not want that job because I was afraid of Silicosis so I returned to my father's home in Brosseau.

The second world war broke out in September and I went to Vegreville for my physical examination. I was not acceptable because Judge Harvey said that I was more valuable as a farmer. The armed forces needed to be fed to bring the war to a speedy conclusion and, working my father's 26 quarters would be my share in the war effort.

After a long courtship, I married Jeanne Desaulniers, daughter of Rene Desaulniers and Florence Guenette, of Lafond on June 19, 1944. We lived with my Dad until

Jeanne Desaulniers and Joseph Alexandre Brosseau on their wedding day on the steps of St. Bernard Church, Lafond, Alberta, June 19, 1944.

1946 when we moved into a house in the hamlet, whilst I still farmed. In 1953 I built a new house on the hill, located immediately east of the St. Laurent Church.

Expenses were getting larger all the time so, in 1953, a week before Christmas, I went to work for Western Chemicals in Duvernay. I helped the electrician, Bob Galloway, for two years. Then I worked on my own as a valve reconditioner. You should have seen us cross the bridge on cold winter mornings! We looked like ghosts with our cardboard boxes, over our heads, as protection against the wind which can be biting as it sweeps over that river.

I was hurt at the plant while I was dismantling a chlorine car valve, loaned by Pioneer Chemicals. The wheel on the valve was cracked and painted over. When I applied pressure to open it, it let go and I went crashing in a tool-box. My neck came in contact with the padlock of the box. I felt the pain but thought nothing of it as it was not an open wound. However, I kept getting weaker and finally was admitted to the University Hospital in Edmonton. Doctor Forster diagnosed my case as Dystonia Musculorum. I was not satisfied with his verdict so went to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, U.S.A. where Dr. McCarthy operated on my head. He tried to cut the cord that caused my twitching, but, accidently, cut the one that controlled my left arm. I was worse off than before!

I could no longer work so, with my family, moved to Kelowna, B.C. in 1966. I was placed in a chronic hospital, after an accident at Monte Creek, a few miles south of the junction of #1 highway claimed the life of my wife, Jeanne. I was unhappy there and planned to return to Alberta which I did. Since then I have been in Nursing homes in Two Hills, St. Paul and, now, in the Youville Home in St. Albert. My family sold out in Kelowna and bought 300 acres of timber land in the Shuswap valley south of Vernon B.C., which they are improving successfully. .

Joseph Brosseau's fmaily in Kelowna, B.C. in 1967. Back row — l to r, Charlie, Rosaline, Marguerite, Joe; Front row — Joseph A. Brosseau, Bernard, Jeanne Brosseau (Desaulniers); Center — Jeannette and Cecile.

Taken on Rosaline Brosseau's wedding in Kelowna, B.C. From the right — Jeannette, Little Joseph, Marguerite, Charles, Rosaline Nishi, Joseph (father) Cecile. At the front is Bernard Brosseau, 1970.

While my health was still good, in Brosseau, I was kept busy with community activities: church trustee; trustee for the Brosseau Telephone System; shop steward for the Oil-Chemical-Atomic-Workers' International Union; Director and on the loan committee of the Westkem Loans and Credit Union; secretary-treasurer of the St. Laurent Separate School.

Jeanne and I had seven children:

Marguerite (April 13, 1945); Rosaline Nishi (August 27, 1946) married to Ron Nishi and mother of a daughter, Dawne; Joe (September 10, 1947); Charlie (April 3, 1951); Cecile (July 5, 1955); Jeannette (July 19, 1957) and Bernard (May 15, 1962). I also have two other grandchildren, a daughter-in-law and another son-in-law.

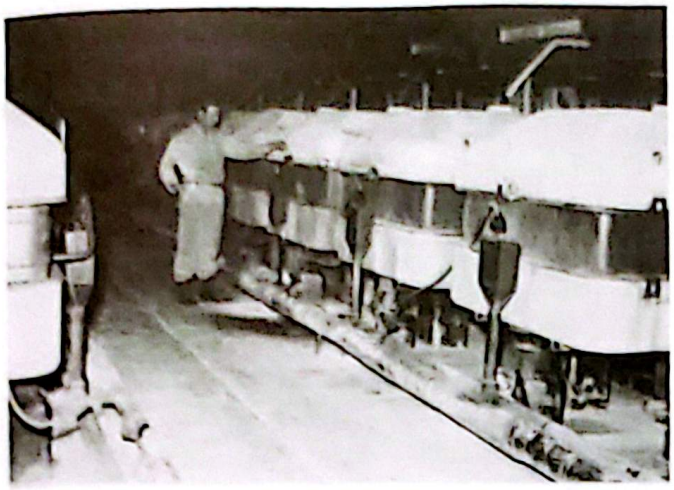
EDWARD BROSSEAU

by Sara Brosseau

Edward Raymond Brosseau was born in Brosseau July 13, 1920. He was educated at St. Martin's School in Vegreville and attended the Jesuit College in Edmonton. He worked on his father's farm but wanted to try another occupation. He went to a lumber camp in Aleza Lake B.C. in the winter of 1948 but that was not for him. Then he went to work for Jake Glaum who was manager of the Alberta Lumber Company branch in Didsbury, but, by then he had become interested in a nurse in the Two Hills Hospital of Two Hills so he came back to his farm on NW¼ 26-55-12-W4th.

Edward in Aleza Lake B.C., 1948.

Edward Brosseau and Sara Watt, 1950.



Edward in the Cellroom checking the level of the brine in the cells, 1963.

Sara Catherine Watt of the Ben's Lake district and Edward were married in the St. Laurent Church in Brosseau May 26, 1950. Sara continued her nursing career in the hospital at Two Hills over the next twenty years. Edward was farming. When the Western Chemicals plant was being constructed he worked there too. He remained employed there from its inception until his death on November 27, 1969. He was foreman in the cell room.

In the cell room the brine solution pumped from the salt wells was resaturated and fed into long rows of cells in a slurry form. An electric current passed through the cells, decomposing the brine into Chlorine, Hydrogen and Sodium-Hydroxide. From there the chlorine was sent to the coolers and other departments.

Edward loved sports — lacrosse, hockey, baseball, golfing and curling. At some time or other he participated in all of these.

After Edward's death the family moved to Sherwood Park where the children completed their education. Edmond got his degree in Commerce and is now completing a course in computors at Northern Institute of Technology in Edmonton. Catherine has her Bachelor of Education and is teaching. Roberta has her Bachelor of Arts and is contemplating a course in Rehabilitation.

Edmond married Judy Krudys of Vilna and they have a baby daughter, Jennifer Marie. Catherine married Philip Mackenzie in July 1979, in the same church her parents were married in, thirty years before.

MAURICE ALFRED BROSSEAU

by Maurice Brosseau

Maurice, son of Joseph Brosseau and Lucie Coutu, was born in Winnipeg on January 20, 1919. On the trip back home, on the train, he was the center of attention. He was such a wee baby that his mother had placed him in a shoe box on the seat.

Maurice received the first eight years of his education in the St. Martin's Roman Catholic Separate School in Vegreville. In September 1933 he enrolled in a classical course at the Jesuit College in Edmonton, and studied philosophy towards a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Laval, Quebec. In 1941 he was called to the Army and spent one month in Camrose. He returned to College to finish the year and passed the College final exams but could not write his university finals because he had missed too many classes.

He enrolled in the Canadian Army on January 8, 1942. After his basics, in Camrose, he was posted in Prince Rupert with Intelligence. He served in the United Kingdom and Continental Europe and was discharged March 7, 1946 to return to Civil Life on demobilization.

He returned to his father's farm and bought S½ 36-55-12 W4 through Veterans' Land Act and acquired a WD6 tractor.

Maurice Brosseau and Noella (Desaulniers) Hrushka married on June 10, 1952.

On June 10, 1952 he married Noella (Desaulniers) Hrushka (40 years to the date of his parents' wedding) in Lafond. They had a wedding dinner at her parents' home in Lafond and a reception in the Brosseau Hall.

Noella, daughter of Rene Desaulniers and Florence Guenette, was born December 13, 1922 in Lafond. She attended school there from 1930-1938. Afterwards she worked in the St. Paul district for $6.00 a month, until her marriage to Nick Hrushka on April 27, 1946. He was electrocuted while working for Canadian Utilities on May 9, 1950. Noella married Maurice in 1952.

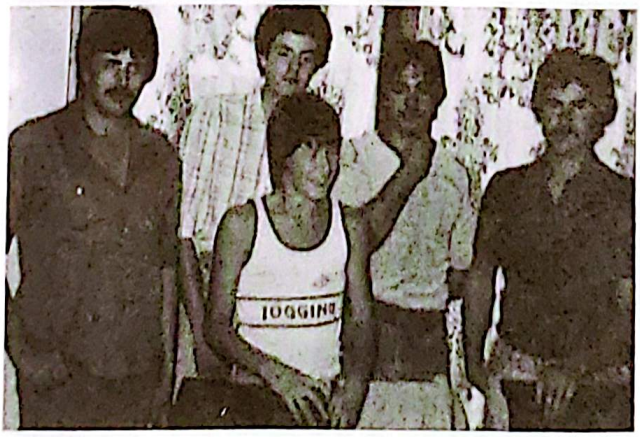
After their marriage, Maurice and Noella lived with his parents where he operated the farms. In 1961 he bought SE¼ 3-56-12 W4.

In 1965 Maurice's father died. Maurice inherited S½ 35-55-12 W4 and bought Joe's share of machinery: a

Grandmother Noella Brosseau and Jacob Brosseau.

Cockshutt 570 tractor, a Massey Combine 92 Super, an IHC mower and a Massey One-Way. He already had a WD 6 tractor, a Massey-Ferguson 35 tractor, an IHC One-Way, a McKee harvester and a GM 1954 truck. On June 25, 1974 Maurice purchased N½ 36-55-12 W4. He is now the owner of seven quarters of land and is carrying on mixed farming-raising cattle, hogs, chickens and turkeys. Noella puts in a huge garden.

Maurice and Noella had eight children:



Maurice Brosseau Jr., David Brosseau, Philip Mackenzie (a nephew), Roger Brosseau. Standing in front is Thomas Brosseau.

Adele, born December 11, 1952, is a secretary and a cook.

Therese, born November 15, 1953, has two boys, is a Microfilm clerk.

Roger, born October 17, 1955, is a welder.

Jocelyn, born January 2, 1957, is cook's helper at present.

Maurice, born August 21, 1958, is an apprentice elevator man.

David, born December 27, 1961, graduated from St. Paul Regional School, 1979.

Monique, born April 22, 1963, died September 6, 1967.

Thomas, born July 29, 1964, student.

MR. AND MRS. NORMAN MAILLOUX

by F. Mailloux

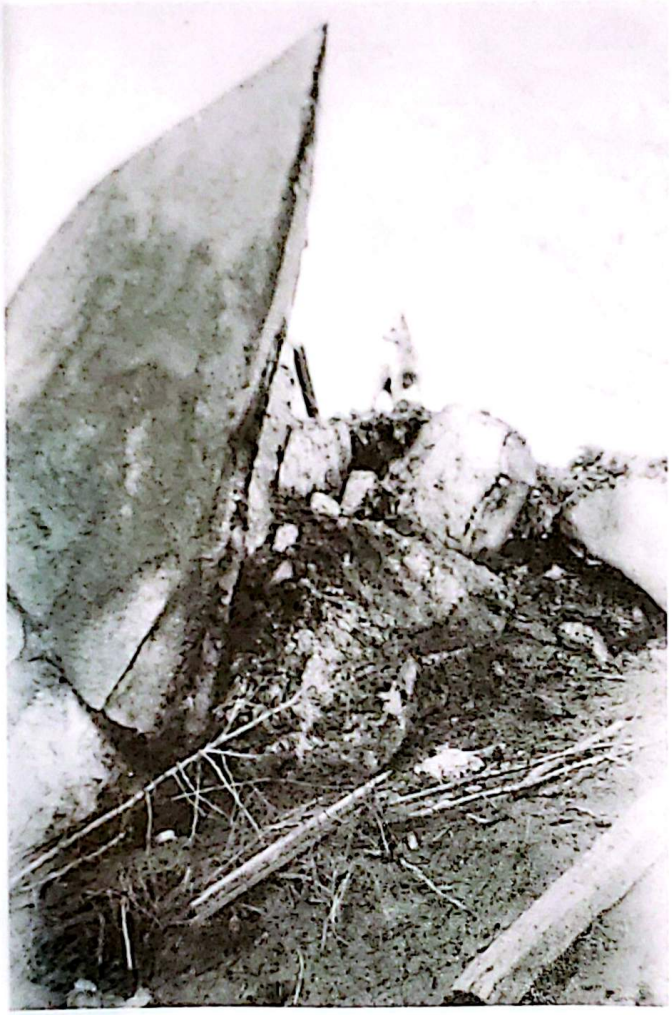
Florence Julie Brosseau, granddaughter and godchild of Edmond Hector and Julie Brosseau (née l'Hirondelle), second daughter of Joe and Lucie Brosseau (née Coutu of St. Laurent, Manitoba) was born January 15, 1916.

Sunday afternoon at Big Fish lake, now known as Lac Sante.

Joe Brosseau's truck, with his driver, Bernard Espie, was at the disposal of these young folks.

Highlights of my life were:

A) My home life on my dad's farm were years of carefree happy pleasures. We, my three brothers, three sisters and I, had a section of land to roam at will re-enacting story book adventures, etc. Oh! How that Old Saskatchewan River was special to us! Its banks had treasures untold for growing kids to explore in the spring and summer; its hills were our toboggan slides; its ice was our own private skating rink in winter. It was hard work cleaning and flooding its surface but what fun was derived from our labour was worth every moment of it. It was not unusual to see a huge bonfire burning on the river late at night; speeding figures on skates and peals of laughter in a game of crack the whip.



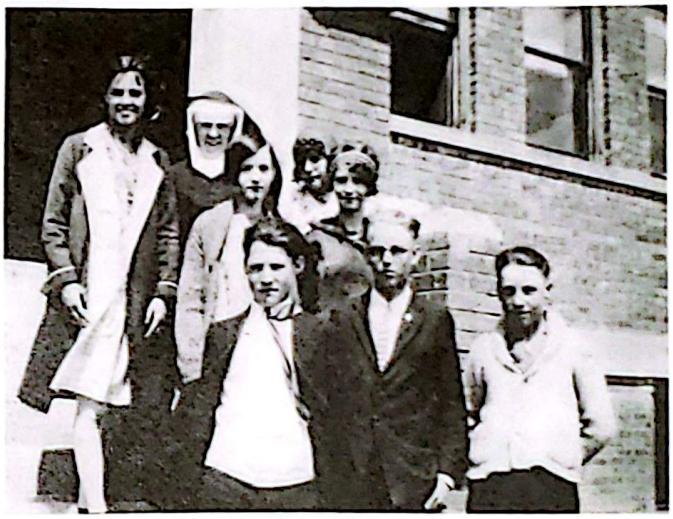
Ice piled up on the north shore of the North Saskatchewan River in the spring of the late 1930's.

Being away at school most of the year made certain events doubly special to us — for example Christmas and Easter holidays and threshing days. With jolly Madeleine Johnston as our cook and our crews, it was not work but fun. I remember living in a caboose in the middle of a section for a month, due to unsettled weather. Comforts of life seemed so immaterial, what with, card playing to while away the time and dancing quadrilles in a steel granary with a gramophone for music. We did not have enough girls so some of the men were decked out as substitutes. That afforded much laughter and those are what precious memories are made of.

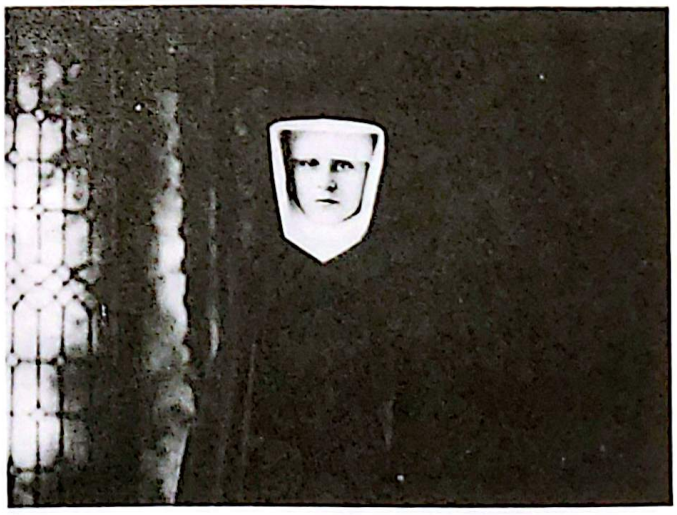
I also enjoyed berry picking. Oh to taste once more those delicious wild strawberries which were so abundant in those days. Saskatoons, chokecherries, pin cherries, gooseberries, cranberries and loganberries were plentiful also. We even had a bush of thorn apples about a half mile from our house.

Then as we grew older our pastimes changed to picnics (Brosseau picnic was well attended in those days); ball games with Ernest Didier our most notable player; house parties with our own local bands. Big Fish Lake was our spot of interest especially on Sunday afternoons. Oh those nostalgic good ole days with their card parties (Whist was the game) and basket socials. Remember hearing that one basket sold for $50.00. How about that?

B) Educated by the Daughters of Providence, Vegreville, Alberta at St. Martin's R.C.S.S. and attended church at St. Martin's Catholic Church. Have fond memories of the following: Sister St. Peter Claver (Grade 1), Sister St. Francis, piano teacher, Sister St. Daniel; Sister St. Cecilia, Sister St. Benedict and Miss Stanton, my teachers from grade 6-12, and Sister St. Ursula, in charge of boarders. Sister St. Anastasie and I were sacristans for Father Rowland for a few years and that I enjoyed immensely as she was so artistic.



Gr. VIII, St. Martin's RCSS. Vegreville. Down - Yvette Belzil, Mother St. Daniel, Angelina Plouffe, Simon Lamoureux. Florence Brosseau, Edith Mahoney, Alphonse Tetreau, Arzidas Dumont, 1930.



Sr. Cecilia de Jesus.

C) Graduated as a teacher from Camrose Normal School 1934-35. Batched at the "Ark" owned by Mr. and Mrs. Miller, with Grace Bruce (Bruce), Kay McKenzie, Mildred Pugh (Warwick), Florence Buchanan and Velletia Hackett (Lamont), Dorothy Spence and Margaret Weldon (Athabasca). We were one "Happy Gang".

D) Between 1935-42, I taught at the following places — Emery Theroux's Private School at Ben's Lake or Warwick; substituted for two months at Champlain; St. Bernard, Lafond S.D. first with Therese Belisle and then Maria Rose Mathieu, and finally St. Laurent S.D. Brosseau.

THE ARK — Camrose. Florence Brosseau. Up - Velletia Hackett, Grace Bruce, Florence Buchanan. Down - Mildred Pugh, Kathleen MacKenzie. Insert - Margaret Weldon, Dorothy Spence.

Maria Mathieu, 1938.

E) Being tired of school books, my grandfather's restless blood finally won over and I joined the R.C.A.F. in 1942, took my basic training at Rockcliffe, Ontario (outside Ottawa); my trade (Chef) at Macdonald Institute, Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, Ontario, then under the Administration of the R.C.A.F. Afterwards I was stationed at No. 9 B&G School Mont-Joli, P.Q. - No. 4 Group, Prince Rupert, B.C. and Patricia Bay, B.C. Was at Patricia Bay for VE Day, May 8, 1945.

Therese Belisle (Mrs. Armand Theroux) taken on the N. shore of the Saskatchewan River.

Our home in Aleza Lake, B.C. (Lumber Camp).

Our Home E½ 26-55-12-W 4th. Duvernay.

Patricia Bay, August 2, 1945. Alice Hunter, Phyllis Berry, Florence Brosseau, Norman Mailloux, Rev. Padre Campbell, John Howard, Vern Wilding, Curly Hopkins.

F) In 1945, I was united in marriage to LAC Norman Charles A. Mailloux, son of Silvere Mailloux and Bernadette Brousseau, from Windsor, Ontario. Ours was a military wedding in the Patricia Bay Recreation Canteen with six W.D. and six Airman Guard of Honour, and only R.C.A.F. personnel present. Rev. Padre Campbell officiated, Curly Hopkins gave me away and F.O. (Miss) Bray was Matron of Honour. After the reception Norm and I flew to Calgary where I got my discharge from the R.C.A.F. We were there for VJ Day, September 2, 1945.
G) Inthe early years of our married life Norm and I lived in Ruscomb, Ontario where he worked in a Grist Mill with his father. My eldest son, Norman Maurice, was born at Hotel Dieu Hospital, Windsor in 1946. When the baby was nine months old, we came back to Brosseau, Alberta where Norm had his first experience of western farming on my dad's farm.
H) After my second son, Gary was born at Saint Joseph Hospital, Vegreville in 1947, we moved to Aleza Lake, B.C. Norm enjoyed his life as a lumberjack.

Finally we returned to Duvernay in 1949, where we made our permanent home on the farm bought thru V.L.A. There we raised our family of three sons and two daughters — Norman Jr., Gary, Phyllis (1949), Arlene (1953), and Dennis (1954).

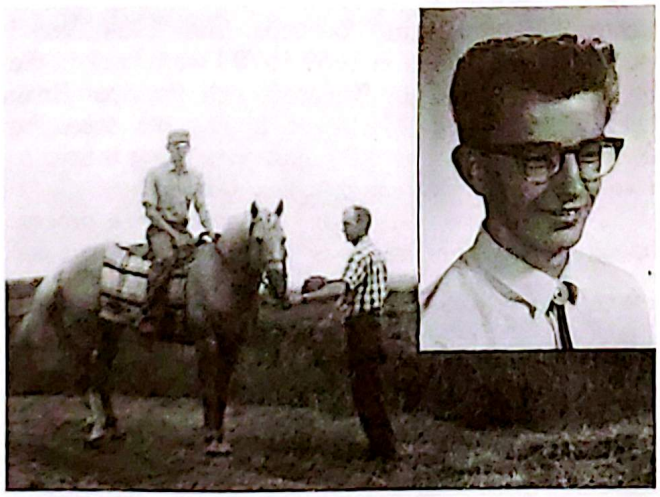
In 1964 when my family was growing up and some were old enough to go on their own I went back to teaching. I retraced my footsteps; from 1964-1968 I taught in Lafond then in 1969-1970 I went back to the St. Laurent School in Brosseau with Principal Brian O'Hara, and George Mackenzie. In June we closed the doors of that school as our pupils were being bussed to Two Hills or St. Paul the following year.

Norm had by 1979, put in 25 years as a process operator at the Chemical Plant situated in Duvernay, first

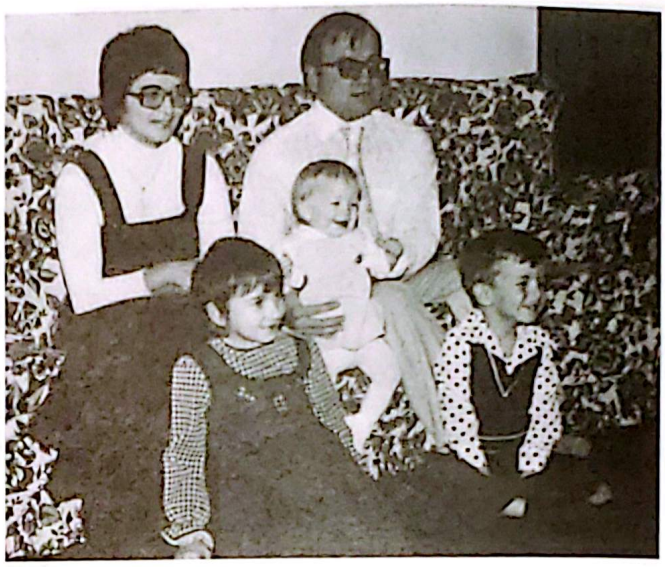
Brian O'Hare Princ., George Mackenzie, Florence Mailloux.

Henry Hagg - Manager of the Two Hills Chemical Plant located on the south shore of the North Saskatchewan River at Duvernay congratulates Mr. and Mrs. Norman Mailloux Sr. for 25 years of service to the Company.

in the cellroom and next in the Calcium Chloride Department. Because of his health, he is presently employed as a fork lift operator. He is leading an active life as President of OCAW, Local-664, President of Kemwest Credit Union, President of Brosseau Community Centre and an officer on the Executive Committee of the Vegreville Branch No. 39, Royal Canadian Legion. Now that the Two Hills Chemical Co. has sold the plant to Western Truck Body Manufacturing and will terminate functioning as such by July, his plans are undecided.



Norman M. Mailloux on Goldy — Norman C. Mailloux Sr. Norman Jr. on tractor.

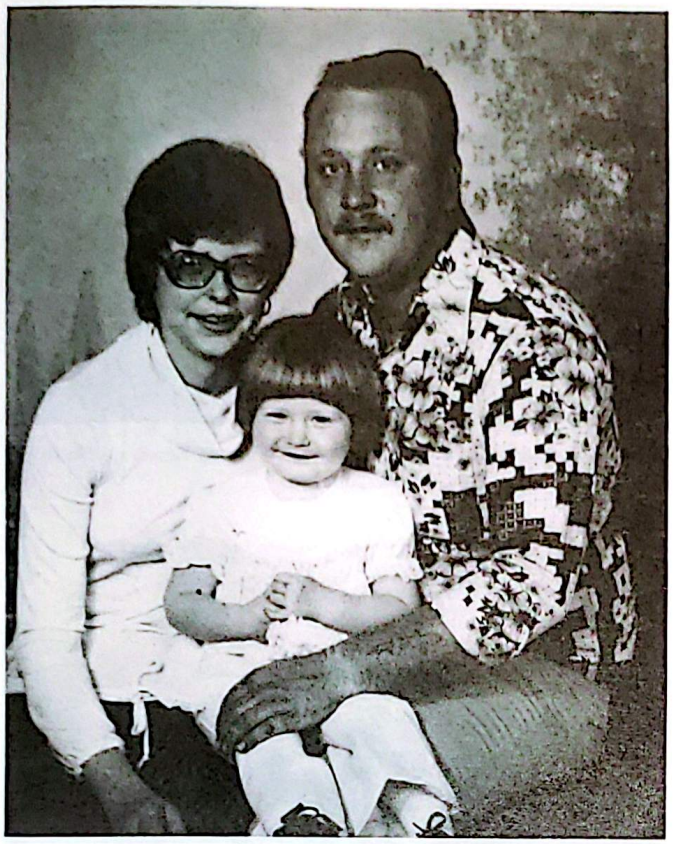


Gary Edward Mailloux, Carol, Angela, Aline, Anthony.

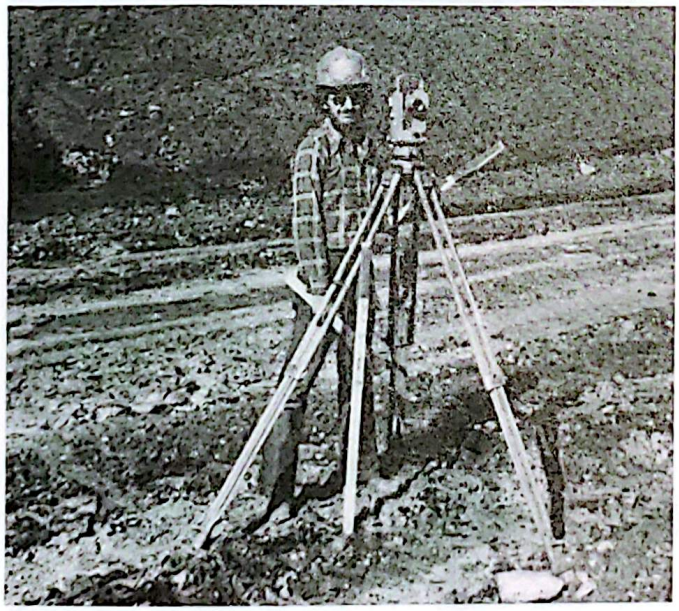
Thomas Fraser, Phyllis (Mailloux). L - R Tracy, Douglas, Julie.

Our Family

1. Norman Maurice took his schooling in Two Hills, Brosseau, Lafond and is presently working our land.
2. Gary Edward, graduated in Two Hills, Brosseau, St. Anthony's College and NAIT in Edmonton, Alberta — graduated as a geologist, had experience in the Yukon (Nahanni Region), and the Great Canadian Oil Sands located in Ft. McMurray. He is presently employed by Petro-Canada in Calgary. Married Aline Brault from Foisy, Alberta, and have three children . . . Angela 1970, Anthony 1972 and Carol Ann 1975.
3. Phyllis Marie Elena, educated in Brosseau, Lafond, Red Deer in Alberta. Worked for AGT in Vegreville, St. Joseph's Hospital, Vegreville and General Hospital, Edmonton. Married Thomas Gordon Fraser from Pilot Mound, Manitoba and has three children; July Lynn 1970, Tracy Lee 1972, and Douglas Alexander 1974.
4. Arlene Mary Frances, educated in Brosseau, Two Hills, Vegreville Composite High School and graduated as a secretary from Ft. McMurray. Worked for AGT Edmonton, Bouey & Bouey Architect, and Howorth & Co. in Edmonton. Married Randy Dickson from Edmonton and have one daughter, Randi Dawn.
5. Dennis Joesph Alfred, took his schooling in Brosseau and Two Hills and has been working for Great Canadian Oil Sands in Ft. McMurray since the age of 19. He started as a Geological Technician and then became a Mine - technical Surveyor.



Randy, Arlene and Randi Dawn Dickson.



Dennis Mailloux.

Memories of the Past

Another event that is vividly pictured in my mind among my memories and one that brings a snicker to my lips is a ballgame. What is so different ? sez you. It was one with a different flair. It was played around 11:30 p.m. on a balmy July night near the gas-well on my dad's land. Not too dark to be called off on account of darkness and not too light to prevent errors, and with no time to fill gopher holes. We chose sides with the older generation included (Joe Brosseau and wife, Ralph and Isabel Steinhauer, Jake and Grace Glaum, Leo and Irene Castagner, Tobin Brunelle, Charlie Callahan, Omer and Cecile Theroux, Madeleine Johnston). What a game it was but fun galore! When the game ended in a tie (decision of a diplomatic umpire) we gathered around the fire for a weiner roast with all the trimmings.

Treaty Days were really something. It was a yearly occurrence in July where people gathered on Saddle Lake Reserve to enjoy good ballgames, horse-racing, stampedes, etc.; visit with friends from other districts, see Indian costumes at their finest and of course "Pow Wow" dancing to the sound of Indian drums, primitive but truly western.

Fun for young and old on the Saskatchewan River.

Kiffi and Kiskiyo.

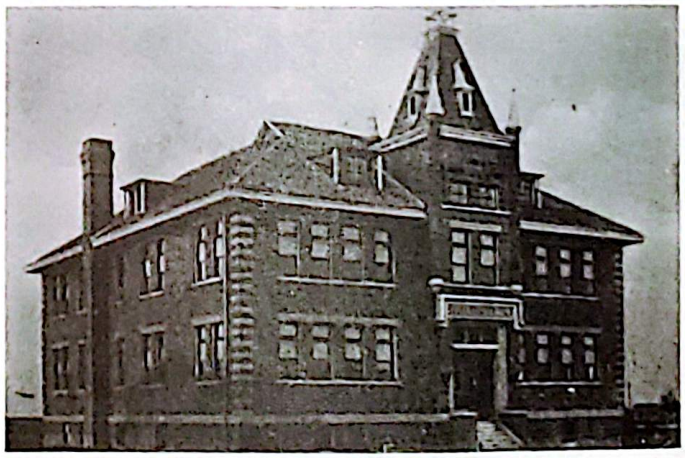
Madeleine Johnston, Florence Brosseau, Juliette Grenier.

On tractor Mutt Wasney. In background - Edward Brosseau, Norm C. Mailloux, Sr.

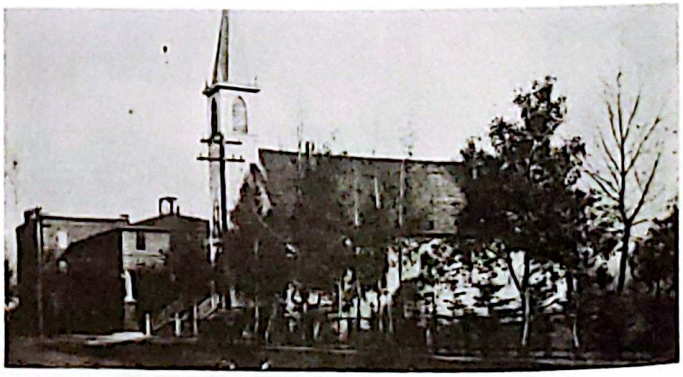
Threshing Days in the fall of 1941 — late Oct.

In the town of the Big Egg.

Working in the lumber camp in Aleza Lake, B.C. Robert Bachelet and Norm C. Mailloux Sr.



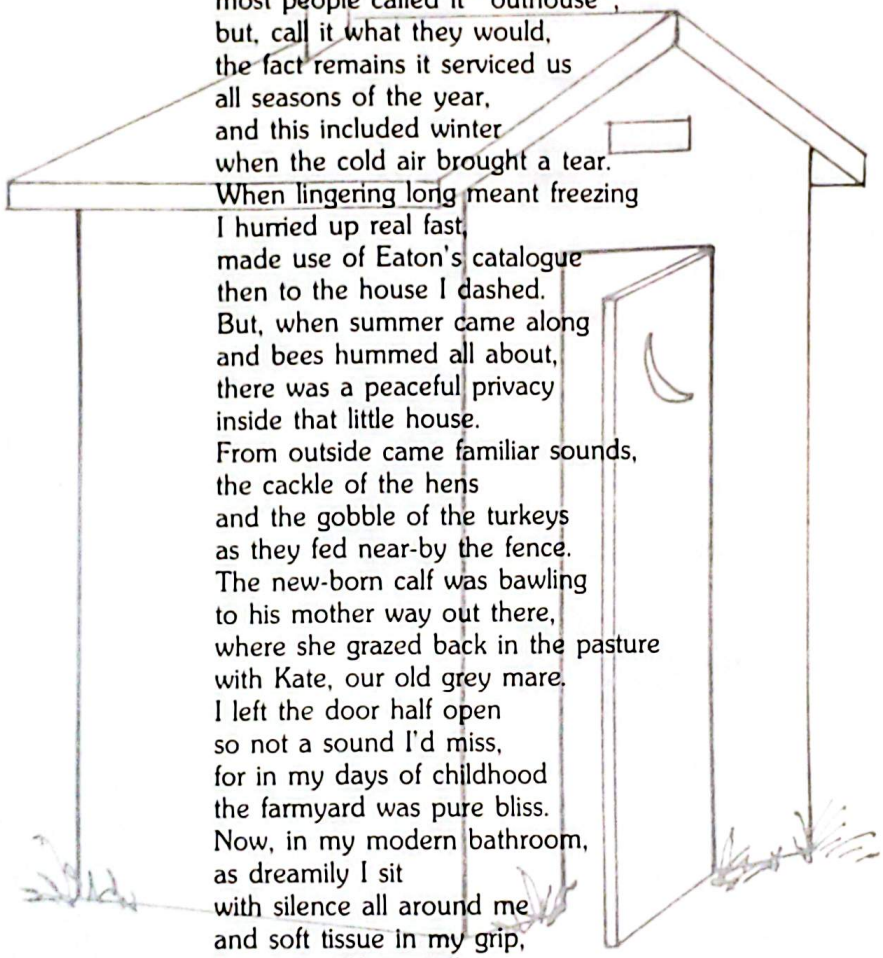
Separate School, Vegreville, Alta.



Catholic Church and Convent, Vegreville, Alta.

The Outhouse

Down on the farm, so long ago
when I was just a kid,
we didn't have a bathroom
like our city cousins did.
We beat a path behind the house
where a little building stood —
most people called it "outhouse",
but, call it what they would,
the fact remains it serviced us
all seasons of the year,
and this included winter
when the cold air brought a tear.
When lingering long meant freezing
I hurried up real fast,
made use of Eaton's catalogue
then to the house I dashed.
But, when summer came along
and bees hummed all about,
there was a peaceful privacy
inside that little house.
From outside came familiar sounds,
the cackle of the hens
and the gobble of the turkeys
as they fed near-by the fence.
The new-born calf was bawling
to his mother way out there,
where she grazed back in the pasture
with Kate, our old grey mare.
I left the door half open
so not a sound I'd miss,
for in my days of childhood
the farmyard was pure bliss.
Now, in my modern bathroom,
as dreamily I sit
with silence all around me
and soft tissue in my grip,
I find myself remembering
the drowsy summer days
when, in that little outhouse,
I dreamed the hours away.



— Tina Lang

Remembering someone who used this as an excuse to get away from doing dishes after a meal.

A good place to skim over discarded old newspapers and pick up news that were skipped before.

LLOYD BUTCHER

Lloyd Butcher was born in Saskatoon, Sask. July 23, 1921. His parents were William Henry Butcher and Bella May Mallory. They lived in Saskatoon until Lloyd was 13 at which time they moved to a homestead near Chitek Lake in the Meadow Lake area. When Lloyd was 19 he enlisted in the army and spent 4½ yrs. overseas.

Upon discharge, he worked on road construction for a short while and then worked on oil drilling rigs until 1946 when he came to Duvernay. It was while he was with the rigs that he was nicknamed "Blackie" and the name stuck.

In 1947 Blackie married Hermine Brosseau. They lived in Kimberley, B.C. where he worked as a miner in a lead mine. After a year they moved back to Duvernay to farm.

Six children were born to them — Jacqueline, Patricia, Michelle, Leslie, Daniel and Frances. They have one granddaughter — Blanka Fiala (Jackie's daughter).

Blackie and Hermine still live on their farm which used to belong to Joe Rioux. He farms a bit and does some welding as a side line.

RENE ROBINSON

by Lucia Robinson

Rene Robinson, son of Leon Robinson and Delina Blanchette, was the second child in a family of twelve. He was born in Lafond on August 25, 1915. In the spring of 1918 he went to Quebec with his parents, but Leon had grown to love the West so they returned in August 1919, to a homestead in the Chesterville district and then to Lafond.

Leaving school at an early age he went to work for farmers and in lumber camps.

On December 18, 1942 he enlisted in the Canadian Army (active) in Edmonton and trained in Camrose and Calgary. In 1943 he was sent to England and assigned to the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada. Rene saw action in the United Kingdom, Central Mediterranean and Continental Europe. He was in Amsterdam, Netherlands for its liberation. In 1945 he returned to Canada and was discharged on November 17, 1945 in Calgary.

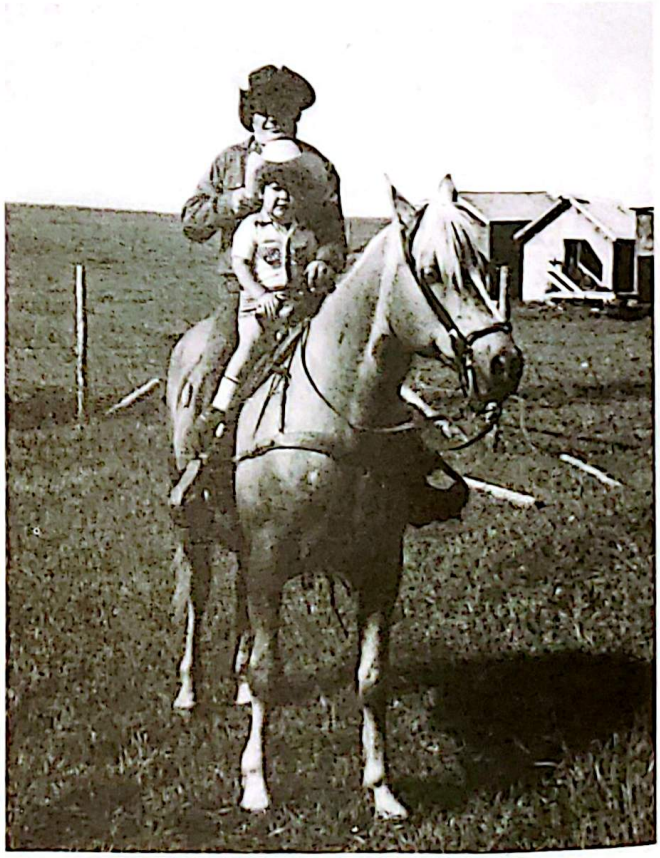
On November 27, 1945 he married Lucia Brosseau. Through VLA he bought the N½ 27-55-12-W4th and went farming for a few years. In 1952 he sold the NE¼ 27-55-12-W4th to Western Chemicals Ltd. They built their chemical plant on it. Rene was employed there for more than 22 years.

Being an ardent horseman, Rene became involved with the Two Hills 4H Light Horse Club and then the Two Hills Agricultural Society. He and his Palomino Arabian horse, Blaze, were a familiar sight at numerous parades in Two Hills and Vegreville.

Rene passed away on August 9, 1976.

Lucia, married to Rene, is Joe Brosseau's oldest daughter, born August 2, 1914. After graduating from St. Martin's RCSS, Vegreville and Edmonton Normal School she taught in Champlain School and Big Fish School, Foisy and in Quebec School, Dakin (near Atmore).

Lucia Brosseau & Rene Robinson married in Brosseau Nov. 27, 1945.



Rene with his first grandson, Wade Robinson, on Blaze.

Grandmother Lucia Robinson, Mother Barbara Filewich and baby Jamie Lee Filewich on the latter's Baptismal Day, December 9, 1979, wearing the Chirstening coat worn by her grandmother in 1914

Rene J. Robinson and family, back from the left — Richard, Robert (Bob), Leonard and Rene. Front — Barbara Filewich and Lucia, September 5, 1970.

Four generations, Barbara Filewich — daughter, Rene holding his first granddaughter, Mrs. Delina Robinson — great-grandmother, 1973.

During the war Lucia was wireless operator in the Air Observers Schools in Ancienne Lorette (near Quebec City) and St. Johns (near Montreal). In 1945 she was 2nd Wireless Officer on the M/S "Tarn", Norwegian Merchant Navy. In October, after VJ Day, Lucia returned to Brosseau and was married.

In 1950 she resumed her original career teaching at different intervals in the school in Saddle Lake, retiring in June 1971.

Rene and Lucia have Four Children:

(1) Robert Charles, married to Marcella (Desaulniers) Neveu of St. Paul, is a Mechanical Engineer for Syncrude in Fort McMurray, father of 2 boys, Wade & Brian.
(2) Barbara, married to James Filewich of Spedden, mother of 3 girls, Leah, Wendy, Jamie.
(3) Leonard, plumber, Edmonton, formally engaged to Leslie Carmack, to be married June 14, 1980.
(4) Richard, apprentice sprinkler fitter, Edmonton

REMINISCENCES OF THE PAST

by Lucia Robinson

My children, as well as so many others, do not realize the actual conditions our pioneers lived under. They get their impressions from TV movies — Gunsmoke, Bonanza, Little House on the Prairie, How the West was Won, etc. Their heads are filled with range wars, glorified cowboys and outlaws fighting to settle their disputes, renegade Indians attacking and scalping settlers, rustlers being hanged, and the hero falling in love with the heroine, marrying and living happily ever after on their homesteads. Perhaps this happened in the American West, which is doubtful, but not so true in Canada.

I, myself did not fully understand these conditions until I observed them first-hand. I never did see the cave homes but I did see a sod shanty in a museum. Log cabins I did visit so I attempt to describe these.

The log cabins were small probably to facilitate the heating. Logs were cut in the wood lots on the homestead, pealed and straightened to be dove-tailed together. The windows were small and the door low. The roof was made of rough lumber covered with tarpaper or sod. Some floors were of mixed clay, swept daily with brooms of willow branches tied to a long stick, others were made of rough planking well scrubbed with hard soap and plenty of elbow-grease until they were almost white. A little trap-door was cut in the floor which, when opened, disclosed a ladder leading down into the cellar where the potatoes, vegetables and other provisions were stored. One night a trapper came home rather late with a coyote presumably dead. He was too tired to skin it just then so he threw it into the cellar. Next morning, his good wife had to get potatoes and bacon for breakfast. When she opened the door there were two bright eyes peering at her. Needless to say she screamed and dropped the door back into its place. Scary!

These shacks usually had only one room. In some convenient place was a stove (a McLary) with the smoke going up a stove pipe through the roof, but more often than not, it would come back to fill the house. Near it was a woodbox, kept well filled by the children. No coal or gas then! The table and benches were hewn from rough lumber as well as the shelves put up for cupboards. Curtains made from flour bags or print purchased at the general store were hung across these to keep the dust off the dishes, pots and pans, and other staples such as tea, coffee and sugar. On one of these shelves was the water pail with a long handled dipper hanging nearby.

The bunks were placed along the walls, and on them were homemade mattresses made from filling huge bags of strong cotton with straw or hay. The pillows were feather-filled and so were the patchwork quilts. All the feathers from poultry, wild ducks and geese were saved, stuffed into bags made of strong ticking and sewn by the women of the household. Sheets and pillow cases were made from flour bags, well bleached and often embroidered. I remember visiting some friends in one of these cabins for a weekend. The lady of the house shared her bed with me. We snuggled down under one of these soft, fluffy quilts. Soon when the heat permeated my body, I began to feel these little hot prickles on my arms, legs and back. She noticed me busily scratching and remarked, "That's from those blankety-blank-blank little bed-bugs." We exchanged places, so that I was nearer the open window. The cool breeze caused them to leave me alone but — she did the scratching!

The clothes were hung from a rod suspended from the rafters or on hooks on the walls. Along a wall or across a corner stood a high-mirrored dresser. Under the bed was the usual chamber pot. For privacy a curtain was drawn around the bed.

As you can see flour bags were very useful. Curtains for the windows, bedding, tea towels and even clothes were made from them. Some were very decorative, made of printed cotton.

Another commodity was Lye. This strong caustic had many uses. The fat from butchered animals was rendered and mixed with it in the process of making soap. After hardening in molds it was used for all cleansing purposes — laundry, cleaning floors, etc. The Lye was hard on the skin.

The fly-infested out houses were something else! They were essential unless you wanted to roam the bushes which was impractical in winter time. They were cleaned regularly with the hard soap and disinfected with Lye or Kreolin, a disinfectant commonly found in most homes. In a receptacle was a good supply of newsprint or pages from Eaton's catalogue. A certain housekeeper had scrubbed her out house very thoroughly with lye. Before it had dried sufficiently her husband went in to use the toilet. They had to rush him to the doctor to have the circle around his seat treated. LYE WAS POWERFUL!

Near the house was the yearly supply of firewood nicely piled. A clothes line was strung between two trees and during the winter, frozen ghosts seemed to be

Note how the roof is fastened to the top of the building.

A display of different workmanship on notching or dove-tailing the corners of the logs to fit together when the homesteaders were constructing their homes.

Note on the right corner of the building you can see a peg placed in the log to keep the wall straight.

The workmanship is not as fancy on this project. The cracks are filled with a wood spacer and then covered with mud.

Mr. Harry Kott mixing mud with his feet to cover the cracks between the logs of the building. Picture taken 1918.

hanging. A garden patch had potatoes, vegetables and flowers. Logs were again used to build the chicken-coop, barn, granaries and other farm buildings. Chickens could be seen scratching around the yard and pigs were loose to wander in the bushes looking for food.

These early pioneers worked hard but they enjoyed life as it came. For some, a weekly outing to church brought them pleasure. Visiting neighbors and friends was another pastime. In the winter there were many dances. It was no chore to load the whole family in their sleighs and travel, sometimes as far as forty miles away, taking two days to attend a party. They had no radios or TV. Some more fortunate had gramophones or phonographs, Victrolas, playing the records and cylinders over and over again until they were worn out. When callers came they would sit around the table swapping stories. If the children were not playing on the floor or the beds they would listen ogle-eyed to these tales. The adults would play games (dominoes, parcheesi, "buttons" similar to Aggravation) or cards (whist, 4-sevens, or poker). Meanwhile they would partake of fiery refreshments. Most homes had their supply of wine, home brew or moonshine for medicinal purpose but even then there were excesses!

Before retiring for the night, shavings had to be prepared for starting the fire in the morning. Sticks were thinly cut with a hatchet, sharp knife or drawknife and piled by the stove. Rene had a deformed little finger "pinky" because of this custom. One night, using a draw-knife to make shavings, it deflected from a knot in the wood and cut the ligaments and cartilage in his finger. it was not attended to by a doctor because, in those days, who would go to the doctor for something as simple as a little cut. The finger did heal but remained crooked and was rather awkward at times when he became a steamfitter.

After all this, it was "Good night" until early morning when they would get up with the birds.

I can also reminesce about the old country schools! They weren't all as romantic as the "Little Red School House on the Hill".

My teaching career began during the depression years — the hungry thirties. I shall never forget my first day in a country school! I had never attended one having received my education in a convent school.

A couple of days before the official opening of the fall term I was installed in the teacherage — a little three roomed house. After arranging my personal possessions and housekeeping paraphernalia I went over to the school. Upon opening the door the aroma of well-oiled floors, polished desks and paper assaulted my nostrils, but after opening the windows I became accustomed to the smell. The windows glistened and the blackboards were shiny. The big clock on the wall ticked loudly in the silence. The desk at the front of the school was piled high with new readers, spellers and arithmetic books. The new register, as well as the old one were there. In the drawer was a full box of white chalk, a half filled box of used colored chalk and the proverbial leather strap. One had to be careful when sitting on the teacher's chair. It emitted a very embarrassing sound which made the pupils raise an eyebrow and snicker to themselves.

The library, a glass covered case, had very few books. These were dog-eared and ragged from use over the years. One, especially, caught my eye. It could have been the original copy of "The Last of the Mohicans" by Cooper. Being a bookworm I was disappointed.

The next day, Friday, was to be the first day and I was prepared to meet the pupils. When I awoke in the morning I heard a dismal patter on the roof, and a brisk wind whistling through the trees. It was a downpour! I kept watching the school through the window but no one was appearing. At ten to nine I ventured to the school getting drenched on the way there. Nine o'clock — ten o'clock — eleven o'clock and still nobody. Lunch time — one o'clock and I was still alone. At that time I did not realize that a pupil, absent in the morning would stay home all day. Finally I closed the school, locked the door and returned to the teacherage.

Now, I had Saturday, Sunday and Labor Day to stew and change all my plans. Tuesday arrived — a beautiful day and the place was filled.

I imagine most schools in those days were similar. There were no specialists, no well-stocked libraries with a librarian, no laboratories with all the scientific equipment, no teachers' aides or secretaries, no gymnasiums, no indoor washrooms and no janitors. The teacher was a Jack-of-all-trades with a minimum salary. She had to prepare, lessons and work sheets for sometimes as many as forty pupils. She delegated the sweeping and dusting to the older girls. The older boys had to bring in the fire wood and the water.

There were no busses picking up the children near their homes and depositing them at the door of the schools. They had to walk, sometimes as far as 3½ miles, both summer and winter. The more fortunate ones had a horse or maybe a team and cart or cutter. In good

weather many children went barefoot, carrying their shoes to wear in the school where infection from slivers in the floor could be dangerous. In winter they wore heavy woollen socks in heavy rubbers.

There were no vending machines, snack bars, nor were they close to stores where they could indulge in snacks. The children carried their lunches in little yellow lard pails. Again, the more fortunate had good sandwiches, a fruit, cookies or candies. Others had bread spread with lard and sometimes covered with brown sugar. I even noticed some carrying empty pails — a camouflage to pretend that they, too had a lunch. Although I'd never eat lunch I'd bring one to school to share with these children. A teacher friend once told this story. She would see frozen potatoes strewn on the school path and wondered where they came from. One day she noticed a boy open his lunch pail and, disgusted, close it again. She investigated. In it were two raw potatoes, well scrubbed but sorry looking. It was wintertime and he had walked three miles to school with his lunch. By the time he reached school they had frozen, and in the heated classroom they had thawed, leaving withered soft mess.

The temperature in these schools was another problem the big heaters had to be lit one hour before school opened in the morning and the fires had to be dying when the school closed at night. Some of the older boys were hired to take care of the fires. By 9:30 A.M. the back of the room was getting comparatively comfortable but the front was still like a deepfreeze. In fact there often was frost along the baseboards until ten o'clock. At three thirty the fires were being left untended and by four o'clock the place was cooling off. This was the time for "Good night teacher" and closing the school.

Many memories of all those years spent teaching are recalled. Some leave feelings of satisfaction, happiness and pride with each successful student. Others leave disappointment, regret and perhaps a little guilt — Could I have done more?

Edmond Brosseau Jr. as a young man.

EDMOND BROSSEAU JR.

by Hector Brosseau

Edmond Brosseau was born in St. Albert on January 18, 1879. With his parents, Mr. & Mrs. Edmond Hector Brosseau, his brothers Joseph, Jean-Baptiste, Alphonse and sister Marie Louise he moved to Brosseau in 1902 where he homesteaded on N½ 10-56-12-W4th, along the present day Highway 36. The first Brosseau school was held in a house he had erected on this farm. He also worked in his father's store by the river.

On April 10, 1907 he married Adele Delisle in St. Albert. She was born April 1, 1881 in Cap Rouge, Quebec but had come with her family to St. Albert where her father had taken a homestead neighboring Edmond Brosseau's.

Mrs. Edmond Brosseau (Delisle) and her daughter Matguerite — 1915 or 1916.

Edmond Brosseau Jr. prior to his death April 21, 1928.

They lived in Brosseau until 1911, when they moved to St. Paul, Alberta, to manage his father's store. This store had been built by Racicot and sold to Edmond Brosseau Sr. In 1927 he went into partnership with his brother, Alphonse, and remained in the merchandizing business until his death in Vancouver B.C. April 21, 1928. Mrs. Adele Brosseau died August 24, 1937.

Mr. & Mrs. Edmond Brosseau had three children:

Hector of St. Paul.
Marguerite Peace of Calgary.
Albert killed overseas during the 1939-1945 war. He was a lieutenant.

HECTOR BROSSEAU

by Hector Brosseau

Hector Brosseau, first grandson of Edmond Hector, son of Edmond Brosseau Jr. was born in Brosseau, Alberta November 29, 1908. He attended school in St. Paul and Alberta College to take a course in business. He married Blanche Landry of Fort Kent, Alberta in 1933.

Hector and Blanche (Landry) Brosseau on their 40th Wedding anniversary, 1973.

After Edmond Jr.'s death he kept his share in the partnership with Alphonse Brosseau, in the Brosseau Department Store in St. Paul until Alphonse sold him his share to go to Bonnyville, where he had opened another store.

Finally in the mid-sixties Hector sold his property to the Alberta government who put up a court-house and liquor store on the premises.

Hector and Blanche have retired in St. Paul where they are engrossed in bridge clubs. They have four children:

Dr. Bernard Brosseau, Bonnyville.
Raymond living in Brooks, Alberta.
Jacqueline in Edmonton.
Albert at home.

MARIE LOUISE BROSSEAU

by Hector Brosseau

Marie Louise Brosseau, only daughter of Edmond Hector and Julie Brosseau was born 1908 in St. Albert. She lived in Brosseau with the family, moving to St. Paul with them in 1915, where she stayed until her mother's death in 1935. She spent her life in institutions helping in the dietary departments. She passed away December 12, 1973 in St. Albert and was buried in Edmonton.

STOREKEEPER — ALPHONSE T. BROSSEAU

by Wilfred Brosseau

Alphonse Thomas Brosseau, youngest son of Edmond Hector Brosseau, was born July 5, 1890 in St. Albert. He moved to Brosseau with his family in 1904. After his education he worked in his father's store, where he was given a half-share in 1911.

Mr. & Mrs. Alphonse Brosseau and family 1950, top row L to R — Wilfred, John, George, Jean McNally, Agnes, Bob; front row L to R — Paul, Mrs. Hazel Brosseau, Alphonse Brosseau, and Helen Hillary.

In 1915 he married Hazel Latimer, and was given a full share in the General Store, Brosseau, as well as a house neighboring it, and a 22-acre fraction adjoining it.

In 1927, Alphonse moved to St. Paul, leaving this store to be run by Charles F. Callahan. Alphonse and his older brother, Edmond Jr., opened the Brosseau Bros. Department Store there.

He bought a general store in Bonnyville, from Mr. Albert Limoges in 1927. He hired Mr. Oscar Audette to manage the same for a couple of years. Mr. Jim Demers took over the managership in 1931 and stayed at it until 1944, when he left to open a business of his own. Mr. Ted Lambert followed until 1947.

In 1948 Alphonse took over the management of the store, the year his two sons Wilfred and Paul finished their education and joined him.

After a bad heart attack in 1968, active as he was, and longing for his store, which was his life, Alphonse was forced to retire, at the young age of 79 years, leaving his sons in charge to this day.

Alphonse retired in Edmonton where he died October 22, 1973. Mrs. Hazel Brosseau is still residing in their home in Edmonton. They had nine children: Raymond (deceased), Agnes, Laurent (Bob), Helen, Wilfred, Paul, Jean, George, John. They have 26 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

J.B. Brosseau's family in the mid-twenties; Standing from left to right — Simone, Carmen, J.B. Brosseau, Doris, Leon standing by his mother, Mrs. Blanche Brosseau.

JEAN-BAPTISTE BROSSEAU

by Carmen Brosseau

Jean-Baptiste Brosseau (Johnny) was born December 13, 1884 in St. Albert, to Mr. & Mrs. Edmond Hector Brosseau. He came to Brosseau with them in 1902 to homestead N½ 2-56-12-W4th.

On June 4, 1910 he married Blanche Lafond, daughter of Mr. Charles B. Lafond, the first postmaster of Lafond, Alberta. Johnny and Blanche ran large farming operations in Brosseau, having acquired more land. They had nine children but only four survived plus Eliane Farley whom they adopted after Maria Farley, a sister of Mrs. Brosseau, passed away. Eliane died of Diphtheria. Simone, Doris, Carmen and Leon were the only surviving children in the J.B. Brosseau family.

John and Blanche Brosseau retired from the farm and moved to Edmonton in August 1946. Blanche died of a stroke on April 9, 1955 at the age of sixty-nine.

John married Esther Newton in July 1956. He died April 23, 1976.

Simone, Doris and Carmen followed in their mother's footsteps. They became teachers.

Simone married E.J. Dagenais in July 1938 and moved to Yellowknife where she taught school, music and raised a family of five, four boys and one girl. Many educators of the N.W.T. recognized Simone as one

Simon Brosseau's wedding. Picture taken at J.B. Brosseau's residence in July 1937. The bride attended on her right by Doris Brosseau and on her left by Carmen Brosseau.

involved in setting up their curriculum. On September 19, 1971 Simone, at the age of 61, died of cancer at the Camsell Hospital, Edmonton and was interred in Yellowknife.

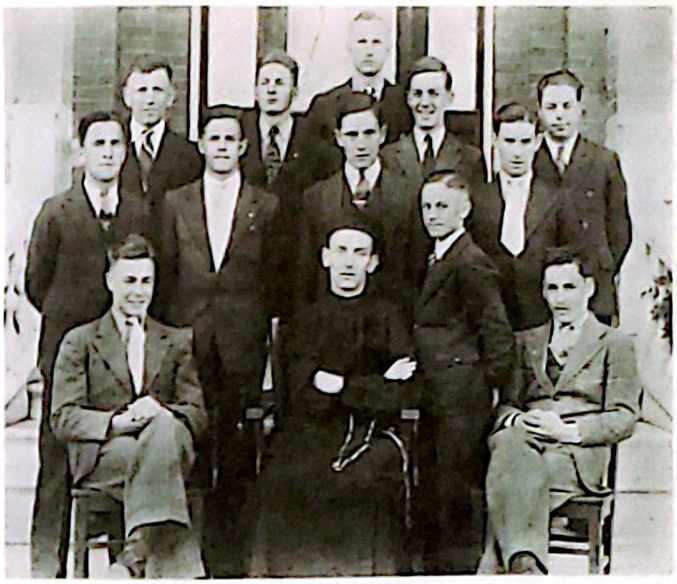
Doris M. Brosseau's farewell to teaching after 46 years of service. Doris taught in Lafond for many years. 1977.

Doris and Carmen taught school for forty-six years each. They finished their careers at the Ellerslie Primary School. Doris was the principal there for seventeen years and Carmen carried on her excellent work for two years before retiring. During this period they raised Carmen's son, Mark Stanley Brosseau.

Carmen C. Brosseau's farewell after 46 eyars of teaching. Carmen taught for many years in St. Laurent School, Brosseau, 1979.

Mark is an electrician at Sherritt-Gordon, Fort Saskatchewan. He is also attending U. of A. to get his degree in engineering. On August 21, 1976 Mark married Barbara Laing, the daughter of Reverend Wm. & Irene Laing of Calgary.

Leon, the only surviving son of the John B. Brosseau family is a probation officer for the Government of Alberta. He is married to Helen Elliott who was a consultant in Special Education from the U. of A. before her early retirement.



Attending Jesuit College, Edmonton; Leon Brosseau, Edward Broseau, Louis Breto, Pierre Gariepy, Joseph Useh, Paul De Champlain, Dave Larose, Paul Turgeon, Andre Rostaing, Jean-Paul Drouin, Rev. Pere Riendeau, Roger Belzil, B. Tremblay, 1938.

Simone (Brosseau) Dagenais — taught in Lafond and Cartier Schools before going to Yellowknife N.W.T.

MEMORIES

by Carmen Brosseau

Once upon a time,
Many years ago,
I ventured into teaching
In the hamlet of Brosseau.
St. Laurent was the name
Of my first country school,
Where I spent thirteen happy years
Teaching the golden rule.
The grades were many,
From one to nine,
But we lived as a family
And got along fine.
Events flash back
That make me smile.
I'll share them with you
In this little while.

Roger at six, is a memory that lingers
Had nicotine stains on two of his fingers

That helped me decipher
Which hand he preferred
Answered at once my inquisitive word.

Who can forget the dancing grays
That pulled a cutter on cold days.
Gisele, Lucille, Gerald and Roger
Enjoyed a swift ride, driven you see
By their big brother Jean Marie.

The festival was a big event,
At our school, we always went,
We won the cup year after year
Joe, Rita, Gabrielle, Bill, Victor
Kathy and all of us showed
That we could act
When we hit the road.

Remember the Christmas Concert
At the old Brosseau store?
The Brosseaus had moved
And, so you see
This was the place for revelry.
We held the concert
It was good —
The children were excited
Of course, they should.
Now comes the climax;
"Where's Santa? Where's Santa"?
The young ones asked,
-Aha-A-ha-A-ha!
We heard a noise,
A bang and a clatter!
Santa was coming
But what was the matter?
He came down the stairs —
But what a sight!
He was all sauced up
By helpers you see,
Who were not any better off than he.
How we hooted and clapped
And handed out gifts —
Now where can you find
More fun than this?

One day I heard a gentle knock
Someone was coming to join the flock.
Katy, Madonna, Jessie and Ruth
Four pretty girls had come to be
Part of our active family.
They sang their songs harmoniously,
We sat and listened attentively.

Little Jack Horner sat in the corner —
Robert did too, but would you know,
His mean old teacher changed the rhyme,
Stood poor Robert there for some time.
My little cherub Gerald sat
Close to my desk because you see
Teacher was there, to help him be
Happy and working easily.

Rita came to school one day
Carrying her lunch pail along the way.
At noon, she opened the pail of food,
But what she saw was not so good.
Ralph had switched the pails — the card —
Rita had the pail of lard.

The Banduras had a party
Mickey and I did go
We feasted and sang
Till it was time to blow.
We got in the car
And to our surprise,
There was a clang and a clatter
That could make the dead rise.
The gremlins had been busy
While we were away,
The chains were on the front wheels
Of our vehicle — hey — hey —
Who did that?

My students turn up in unexpected places,
And it's a joy to see the same friendly faces.
At the Grimshaw terminal one day
A husky truck driver walked my way.
He smiled at me and then I knew
That here was my Camille Theroux,
This was a happy day for me
To see Camille and know that he
Was doing well for his family.

One day Bill got the curious bug
He wanted to learn French — you see
O.K. I said — We'll try our luck,
Six months it took and he
Could read and speak quite fluently.

Mrs. Rusnak had the queen bee
As she hurried to the hive,
Doreen had the syrup
To help the creatures thrive,
Mrs. Rusnak let the bees out,
Doreen ran away
She took the bees with her
As she threw the cup away.

When I see the Boychuk trucks go by
A flash comes to me
And I see
Nicky starting his school career
A chubby fellow, he was a dear.
When school was over,
I helped him dress,
Buttoned his coat,
He did the rest.
Now came the time
That he liked best,
He had to jump
And I had to catch him.
He was a pal —
I'll never forget him.

The boys walked far to come to school,
No wonder Albert has changed this rule,
He's taking to riding in the air
I see his planes, flying, here and there.

The Plaska boys, George, Fred and John
Were a joy to teach and full of fun,
Their sister, Rosalind by name
Was so tiny when she came
A tea cup fitted her like a hat.
She was a doll, I tell you that.
I won't forget my good friend Steve,
He worked so well and I was proud
To have him in our friendly crowd.

Grade 1 Phyllis was wise as can be,
She came to me confidentially.
"Charlotte" she said, "Believes things as such,
Mommy is fat because she eats too much.
But I know better, better than that.
Mommy is pregnant, that's why she's fat".

The Archenuks, the Saulous, the Bosses, the Logozars,
and all the student I have taught —
You were all beautiful children.

To the students of this school
I give credit with all my heart.
You were the ones who enchanted me,
You gave my career a solid start,
I needed you and you needed me
To guide our lives successfully,
After 46 years of teaching,
I thank you.

CARMEN BROSSEAU

Class of '32.

Helpful Seniors: From the top down: Angele Venne, Katy Werkowski, Jessie Werkowski, Suzanne Bachelet and Robert Bachelet.

Happy Family.

From left to right: Bil Hnatiuk, Angele Venne, Nancy Hnatiuk, Lucy Bandura, Lorraune Hilleud, Bert Hnatiuk, Madona Werkowski, John Plaska, Steve Plaska, Fred Plaska, Jean Marie Ouellette, Robert Bachelet, Jessie Werkowski, Suzanne Bachelet, Annie Bandura, Katy Werkowski and Mike Matichuck.

Festival Cup.

MANOLI BABIUK

by Nick Babiuk

Manoli attended the same school, completing the sixth class, then worked part-time on a railroad.

In 1912, Manoli with a friend, John Chrapko, decided to migrate to Canada. They rode by train to Hamburg, Germany, where, through an immigration agency (Missler Bremen), they booked passage on a German Ship, Bahnhofstrasse and sailed to Montreal, then by train to Winnipeg. There was no one to meet him there as he was the first of the family to emigrate. He found himself in a strange land and a language that he could not understand.

In Winnipeg he joined a C.N.R. construction gang and came to the Edson-Jasper area, where he was employed for most of seven years, and during this time he learned the English language. His earnings were not stable. As he often recalled various incidents occurring during this time: such as the time he was paid 15¢ per hour for a 10-hour day and six days a week, while camp deductions were a dollar a day for 7 days a week leaving him $2.50. This was not always so, as he used to send his earnings home to his parents, hoping some day to return to Austria.

The war in 1914 changed all this as he could not communicate with his home or parents for the duration.

These jobs were mostly summer employment, as the camps would close in the fall, so he spent the winters, at various farm settlements in the Vegreville area.

It was during the early winter in 1918 that he met Wasyl Werenka, in Vegreville, who took him on a long journey, by team, across country, some 35 miles to his home, south-east of Duvernay. There he met Anna, the oldest daughter, and they were married in February, 1919, in Vegreville.

At this time his total savings for the seven years he worked for the C.N.R. totalled $800.00, with which he bought a homestead from Nick Archinuk, NW 2-56-11-W4th, a team of horses, harness and a wagon from his father-in-law, Wasyl Werenka, who also threw in 3 cows as a dowry. There was a sod-roofed, two-roomed log house complete with a built-in Dutch oven (peech) and

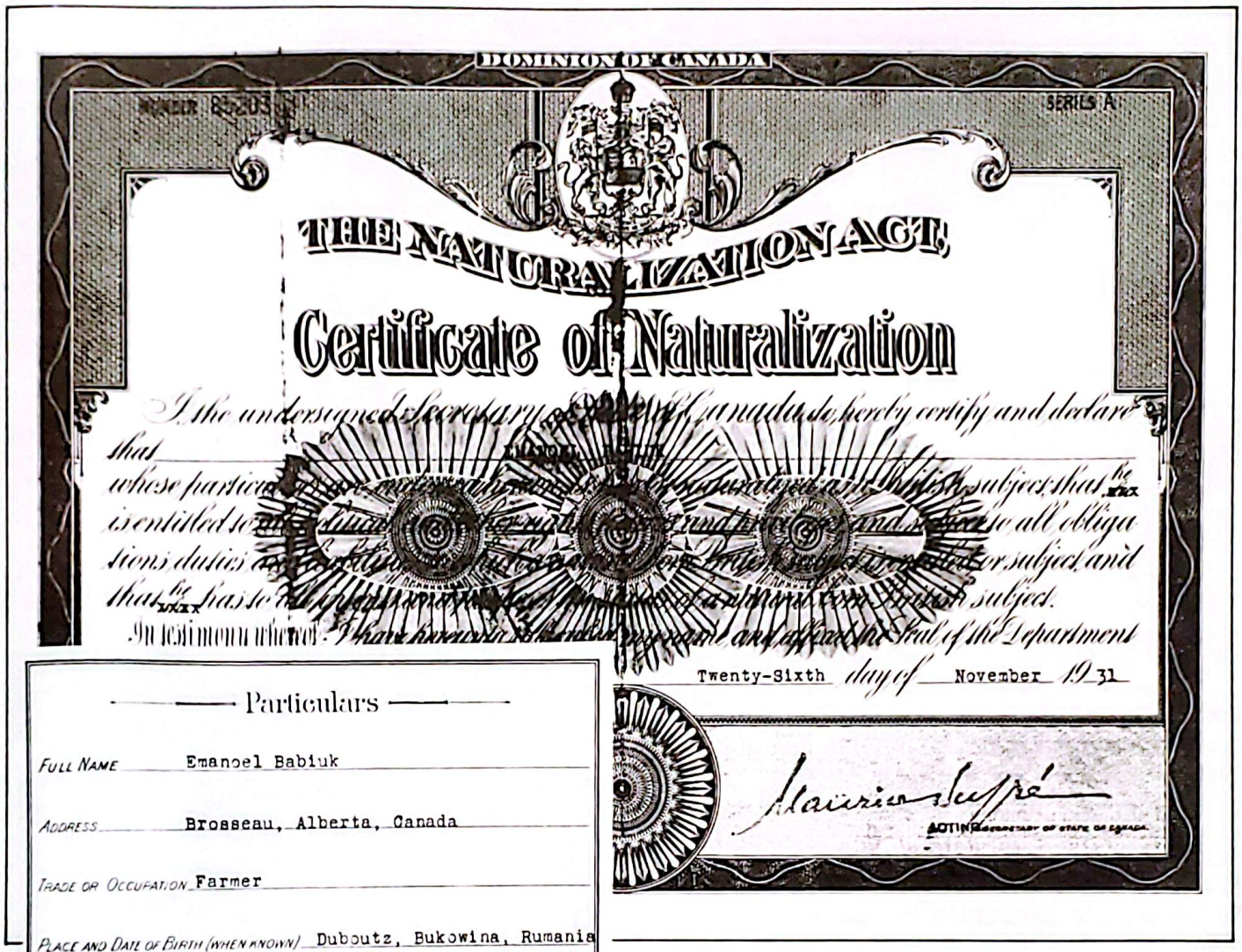
Emanuel and Anna Babiuk shortly after their wedding at Brosseau in 1920, their first house on the homestead NW 2-56-11-W4

earth floor, a small granary and 15 acres cultivated land. His neighbor to the south was John Toderiuk; to the east John Triska; west was Ignaty Rogozar and north was A. Lakusta.

In the Spring of 1919 his neighbor planted his 15 acres while he went back to work for the C.N.R. This farming system was repeated for several years until he could afford more horses and equipment to farm on his own. He broke a few more acres each year.

In those years the crop had to be cut by a binder and the sheaves stooked. When they were dry the sheaves were stacked in tall round stacks so spaced that the threshing machine could be set between the two rows. Many times the threshing was done in the winter, as the threshers were very scarce. In later years, when machines were more plentiful, the sheaves were hauled and fed directly into the Threshers. The farmers who did the threshing in this district in the early twenties were: John and Metro Pundick, Mafty Sherstianka 1927, Jack Chester 1930, Pete Logozar 1939.

Crop of wheat on Emanuel Babluk farm along N. Saskatchewan River on SW 2-56-11-W4 in 1928 at Brosseau. Yield was 40 bushels per acre.



DOMINION OF CANADA

NUMBER 8[illegible]US

SERIES A

THE NATURALIZATION ACT,

Certificate of Naturalization

I, the undersigned Secretary of State of Canada, do hereby certify and declare that [illegible] whose particulars are mentioned hereunder, and who has been duly registered as a British subject, has become entitled to all the rights and privileges of a natural born British subject, and has taken the oath of allegiance as required by the Naturalization Act, and that he has thereby become a British subject.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed the Seal of the Department this Twenty-Sixth day of November 1931

Maurice Sauvé

ACTING SECRETARY OF STATE OF CANADA

Particulars

FULL NAME Emanoel Babiuk

ADDRESS Brosseau, Alberta, Canada

TRADE OR OCCUPATION Farmer

PLACE AND DATE OF BIRTH (WHEN KNOWN) Dubboutz, Bukowina, Rumania

14th January, 1895

SUBJECT OF CITIZEN OF Rumania

MARRIED Married
SINGLE
WIDOWER (WIDOW)
NAME OF WIFE Annie Babiuk

PARENTS SUBJECTS CITIZENS OF Austria

AGE 36 YEARS HEIGHT 5 FEET 7 INCHES

COLOUR White COMPLEXION Fair

COLOUR OF EYES Blue COLOUR OF HAIR Brown

VISIBLE DISTINGUISHING MARKS Mark on chest.

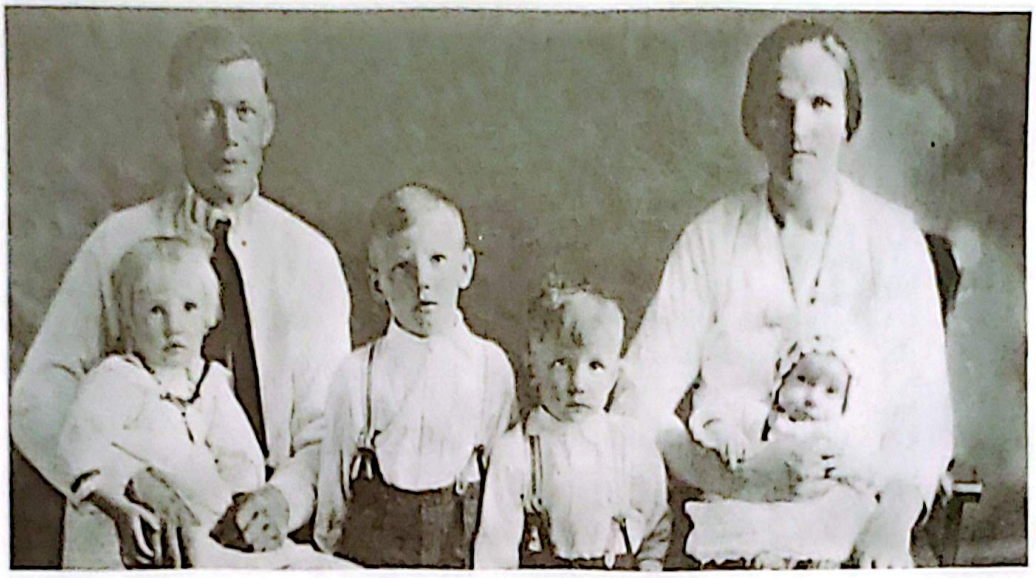
COUNTERSIGNED [illegible]

CHIEF CLERK OF NATURALIZATION

In 1926 Manoli bought SE 3-56-11-W4th from Wasyl Toderiuk for $100.00 plus balance owing the C.P.R. Toderiuk bought SW 2-56-11-W4th from his brother John who moved to NW 10-56-11-W4th. In 1928 he bought the SW 2-56-11-W4th quarter from Wasyl Toderiuk who left the district, moving to a farm in Lavoy, Alberta. To buy this land he borrowed from Edmond Brosseau, a general merchant in St. Paul. There was no Farm Credit Corporation at that time.

In 1930 he bought NE 3-56-12-W4th from the C.P.R. for $5.00 and acre a small down-payment, balance yearly for 20 years. Now he owned one section of land.

This land was very rocky with a stand of bush, mostly poplar, which was cut close to the ground with an axe. The heavier trees were chopped about 4 feet off the ground, leaving the stumps which were pulled out with horses. This was slow work as there were no bull-dozers or brush-cutters then. Most of the land was broken with 6 or 8 horses pulling 14-16 inch breaking plow which required two operators. The driver and the operator walked along with the plow, ploughing 1-3 acres a day. In 1939 John Chrapko of Foisy broke about 30 acres with a tractor. This brought his total cultivated acreage to 200.



Emanuel and Anna Babiuk with children Mary, Harry, Nick and Adam in 1927, at Brosseau NW 2-56-11-W4.

Besides growing grain (wheat, oats, barley) Manoli also raised horses cattle, hogs and sheep. The horses were raised mostly to supply pulling power for farm implements, while cattle, hogs and sheep were for domestic use and financial farm support.

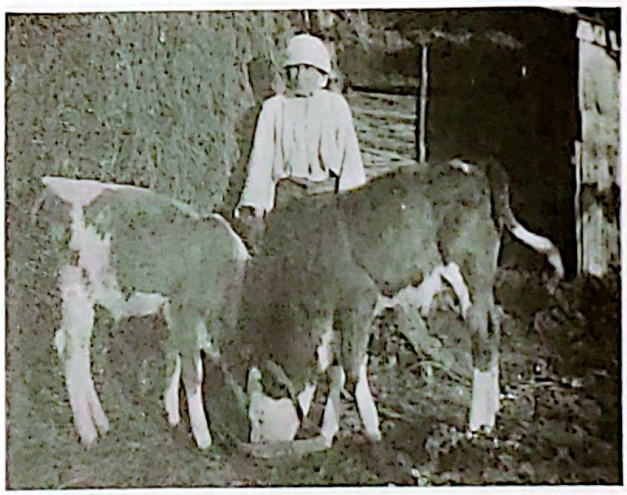
When the depression years came, the financial burden it created was very great. The price of grain and livestock fell to extremely low levels. Wheat was 18¢ at its lowest; cattle 5-8¢ a pound; hogs 1-3¢ a pound. He often recalled the time when his wife fed four steers all winter with sliced potatoes and ground oats. When he trucked them to Swift's Packing Plant in the spring he received $24.00 for the lot. The trucking charges were $26.00. Yesterday's mortgages had to be paid with tomorrow's dollars.

He farmed on this land until 1949, when failing health forced him to retire. He sold the land to J. Laschuk and moved to Edmonton where he lived until his death in 1968. After changing owners a few times this land was bought by Peter D. Logozar.

Emanuel Babiuk cutting oats on SE 3-56-11-W4 in 1934.

Manoli Babiuk was a small man weighing at most 145 pounds, but was energetic and resourceful with a lot of dedication and love of land. He worked hard for his rewards. The land that he cleared, and the miles that he helped build stand to this day as a tribute to the dedication and determination of these pioneers.

Anna, his wife, helped with clearing the land, planting and harvesting. In the early years she stooked and stacked the grain. It was not uncommon for her to harness and hitch the horses and make the trip to Two Hills, (15 miles) or to St. Paul (22 miles) for supplies. She took pride in the size of her garden and she always had a full cellar and some to spare.



Katrina Babiuk in Bukowiva, pail feeding the calves in 1920. (Mother of Emanuel Babiuk).

Emanuel Babiuk with the fourth brother who visited Canada in 1967, Muchailo Babiuk from Bukowiva, U.S.S.R.

She sewed most of the clothes for her family, shirts, dresses, coveralls. She spent many hours in the winter evenings, carding wool, spinning yarn and knitting socks, mitts and sweaters. She is now living in Two Hills.

Manoli and Anna retained their Ukrainian traditions and were supporters of the Greek Orthodox faith. The church they attended, Mamaestie, is still active today.

In the early years Manoli was a member of the United Farmers of Alberta, and took an active part in the local organization of the Alberta Wheat Pool, being one of the original members. He fulfilled his Pool contract and remained loyal throughout his farming years.

Emanuel, Adam and George Babiuk in 1966.

Manoli and Anne were blessed with six children: Harry - 1920; Nick - 1922; Mary - 1924; Adam - 1927; Victor - 1930; Rose - 1932. Victor died in 1938.

Harry Babiuk — Harry completed public school at Mamaestie, then High school at Luzan and Vegreville. He joined the Canadian Armed Forces in 1939, and served throughout World War II. He married Audrey Hindmarsh in 1941. He was discharged in 1944. He is living with his wife Audrey, in Calgary. Their son, Gordon, is with the Armed Forces in Regina. The other two, Douglas and John are in Calgary.

Nick Babiuk — Nick completed public school in Mamaestie, then worked on the farm. He married Anne Logozar and is still farming in Brosseau.

Emanuel and Anna Babiuk with their son Harry on leave from the South Alberta Regiment with his infant son Gordon. (1943)

Nick Babiuk, Adam and Mary with Nick's first farm wagon, given to him by his godfather Ignaty Logozar in 1927.

Mary Babiuk — Mary completed public school at Mamaestie, then one year in Two Hills High School. She was employed for several years at a hospital at Nanaimo, B.C. She married Albert Saulou in 1949. They have 2 boys, Alfred and Edwin and are presently farming in Andrew; Alberta. Both their boys are living in Edmonton.

Adam Babiuk — Adam completed public school at Mamaestie and high school in Two Hills. He served in the Armed forces during World War II and was discharged in 1945. He married Ruby Bird in 1951. He joined the Regina City Police in 1953 and served for 10 years. He is now living in Vancouver. Their son Alvin, is in Calgary; Rosanne in Edmonton; Lloyd, Les, Ron, Wayne in Vancouver; and the twin girls, Debbie and Donna, are in Vancouver.

Rose Babiuk — Rose completed public school at Mamaestie, then two years high school by correspondence. She moved with her parents to Edmonton, enrolled in a secretarial course at Alberta College, graduated and was employed by a law firm until her marriage to Harry Matichuk in 1954. They now operate a dairy farm at Nampa. Their daughters, Sonya and Sandra, at present are enrolled at the U of A in Edmonton. Betty is employed at Peace River. Sons Jordan and Randy are living at home and still attending school.

THE BABIUK FAMILY

by Nick Babiuk

Emmanuel (Manoli) was born in January, 1885, in a small village, Duboutzi, province of Bukowina, in Austria. His parents were Dmetro and Katrina Babiuk. He was the second oldest in a family of four boys: Adam, Manoli, Mukailo and George. The family owned a small farm and worked as serfs for a landlord who owned a lot of land; much the same as in the Feudal System in England. Most people in the village worked for this man.

Adam Babiuk — Adam having completed his studies in the village school, enrolled in a university in Vienna, Austria, then served in the Austrian armed forces during World War I. He emigrated to Canada in 1921 and attended Alberta College in Edmonton where he mastered the English language.

He taught school in the Bellis-Smoky Lake area at Edwand, Alberta, and later at the Nizer School, just a few miles east of Two Hills.

Later he was employed by the Alberta Wheat Pool until the downfall of the Pool in 1930, when he went back teaching at the Edwand School.

In 1939, he was given a position at the Land Titles Office in Edmonton, where he was employed until his retirement. He died in 1978.

Muhailo Babiuk — Muhailo also attended the same school but his studies were interrupted by the war, and, by the time it was over, he was past school-age. He visited his brothers in Canada, in 1966. He is now living on the family farmstead in Bukowina.

George Babiuk — George's education was limited, being of school age during the war when all schools were closed for the duration. He came to Canada in 1928 and farmed in this district, SW 1-56-11-W4th, until 1966. He is now living in Edmonton.

NICK BABIUK

by Nick Babiuk

Nick, the second son of Emmanuel (Manoli) and Anna Babiuk was born on December 13, 1922, at home in Brosseau, in a sod-covered shack on W 2-56-11-W4th. Mrs. Skakun was the midwife attending the birth. He attended Marnaestie School from 1928-1937, having to walk 3 miles, finishing Grade 9. He worked with his father until, in 1947, he acquired his own land, NW 24-56-12-W4th, from Nick Rosychuk.

On July 27, 1947 Nick married Anne Logozar at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church at Musidora, Alberta, Rev. Elia Shwetz officiating. Their reception was held on an open-air platform, decorated with spruce trees, at Peter Logozar's farm SW 2-56-11-W4th.

Anne was the oldest daughter of Peter and Katie Logozar of Brosseau, born July 8, 1927, at home with Mrs. Skakun as the midwife. She attended Mamaestie School from 1933-1941 finishing Grade 8 and then taking Grade 9 by correspondence. Finishing school, Anne worked in the field with four horses, harrowing, seeding and ploughing for her father. She worked for Bill and Stephania Chrapko, during the summer of 1941, for $15.00 a month, doing housework. She also pulled Sow Thistle and Stinkweed out of the grain for Nick Hryhirchuk and later stooked for him. She also helped her parents in the store until she met Nick, in 1947, and married him.

Nick and Anne began their farming with two cows with calves and one pig given her by her parents and a team of horses complete with harness, one cow and calf, and two pigs from his parents.

On January 25, 1948 their first son Raymond was born in the Two Hills Hospital.

Nick joined the Farmers' Union of Alberta, now Unifarm. He attended a convention, in Calgary, with Ralph Steinhauer in 1949, going by train.

On October 14, 1949 their daughter, Rachel, was born in Two Hills.

In 1951 Nick bought an I.H.C. 28" threshing machine from Mike Chrapko of Two Hills, no money down. He also purchased N½ 2-56-12-W4th from Nick Nypit, who had previously bought it from Johnnie Brosseau.

August 1, 1952 a second son was born to Nick and Anne (Dennis), in Two Hills.

In 1953 Nick and Anne began raising purebred Herefords, buying his first cow from Gordon Ziegler of Vegreville. During this time he joined the Mike Mack-Ralph Steinhauer annual spring branding, dehorning etc., as the youngest member of the club. This set-up is still operating but, now, Nick is one of the older members.

In 1956 Nick was elected by acclamation to the Two Hills Municipal Hospital board, a position he held until 1963. In 1954 he helped organize the Champlain Community Center, being secretary for 10 years and still a director in 1980.

In 1957 Nick left the threshing machine for a Massey-Harris S.P. 92 combine, costing $7000.00 from Danchuk & Rosichuk of Two Hills.

On November 23, 1957, their third son, Donald, was born in Two Hills.

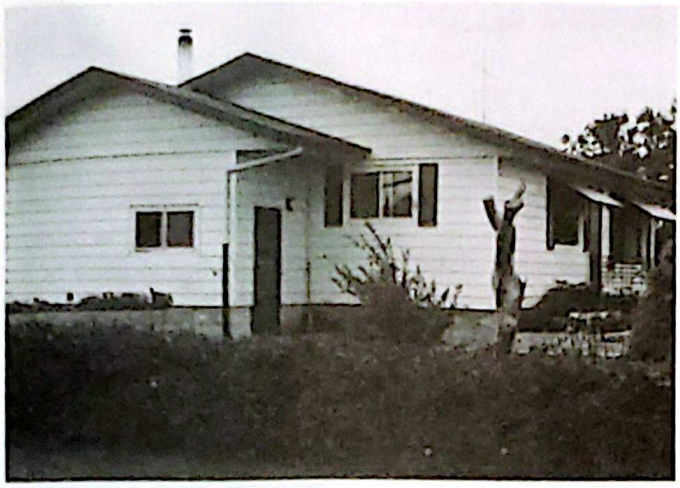
In 1961 Nick built a 32' X 48' barn for his purebred stock and Yorkshire hogs. Raymond Basaraba, being the hired man at the time, was really thrilled to help build such an imposing structure on a farm. When lacombe hogs (a new Breed) were introduced, you had to apply and they would pull names for allocation, Nick was fortunate enough to be picked and he acquired a boar.

The first holiday after all these years of hard work was in 1956. Nick and Anne went to Banff, Radium Hot Springs. Glacier National Park in Montana but the highlight of the trip was visiting the Hungry Horse Dam which was the second largest concrete dam in the world.

On June 25, 1960 a major hailstorm flattened all of Nick's crop. However it revived and he harvested a bumper crop in the fall.

In 1962 he acquired the Mike Mack farm, E½ 34-56-12-W4th to increase his holdings to 6 quarters.

In 1964 Nick and Anne built a modern 1132 sq.ft. home on the farm with all conveniences for a total of



Nick and Anne Babiuk's modern home at Brosseau, built on NW 2-56-12-W4th in 1964.

Nick and Anne Babiuk's 25th wedding anniversary with original attendants — Mary Plaska and Adam Werenka.

Round-up time on the Babiuk farmstead — dehorning, castrating and branding — Dennis Babiuk is in hard hat with Nick behind the calf. In Brosseau in 1977.

$16,000.00. Joe Marchak was the builder, with all materials supplied by Revelstoke of Two Hills. William Boychuk did all the waterworks. When the Brosseau Mutual Telephone Co. was being formed, Nick served on the board of directors and Anne was the secretary.

In 1967 a good crop purchased a 410 Massey from (Alex Tannas) St. Paul Sales and Service for $13,000.00.

In 1960 Nick helped organize the Brosseau 4-H Beef Club, being leader for 10 years and assistant leader for 3 years. This club is still very active.

In 1972, with son Dennis, Nick leased 600 acres on the Saddle Lake Reserve for a term of 3 years. In 1974 he bought the Alex Werenka farm — 480 acres, where Dennis resides, along Highway 36 — (SW 26-56-12 and N½ 27-56-12-W4th.)

In 1973 he bought a bigger combine 510 Massey from Yakimyshyn Sales and Service of Vegreville for $20,000.00.

In 1977, again with son Dennis, Nick leased 1040 acres from a syndicate (Investments Nauvranne) from Ottawa, with head office in France.

The partnership of Nick and Anne with their son Dennis and his wife is still going strong. They are still raising purebred Herefords, and Simmentals as well as Yorkshire hogs. All those acres keeps them busy, too.

Raymond completed elementary and high school in Two Hills, then technology course at N.A.I.T. in Edmonton. Presently he is employed by Hudson Bay Oil and living in Edson. Married Linda Keith and has 2 children.

Rachel completed elementary and high school in Two Hills in 1967. She enrolled in the U. of A. faculty of nursing, graduating in 1970. She is presently employed by the City of Edmonton Public Health.

Dennis completed elementary and high school in Two Hills, graduating in 1970. He is employed on the family farm in partnership with his father. He married Andrea Charron of St. Paul and they have 2 children, Kevin and Jennifer.

Donald completed elementary and high school in Two Hills graduating in 1975. Then he enrolled in the faculty of Engineering at the U. of A. He graduated in 1979 and is presently employed by Hudson Bay Oil Company living in Edson.

GEORGE BABIUK

by Victoria Warren

George Babiuk came to Canada from the Ukraine in 1928 at the age of 21 years old. He arrived in Vegreville on August 2, 1928. He lived with his brother, Emile, in the Brosseau district for one year. In the summer of 1929, he went to work cutting brush for Mr. Steve Winnichuk at Royal Park, Alberta, at $3.00 an acre. That winter he worked for room and board at Nick Salamandick's. In the spring of 1930 George came back to help Emile until the fall when he purchased land from the British Dominion Government on section 1-56-11-W4th.

Three brothers, l to r — George, Adam and Emile Babiuk.

L to R — Standing, Victoria, Victor, Rose; Seated, Mrs. Katie Babiuk, Lorratte and Mr. George Babiuk.

Pete Kozak, a special friend of the family born 1885.

In 1930 George married Mary Boychuk. They had no children. They were divorced after six years of marriage.

In 1938 he married Katie Yuschyshyn and they had five children. They are: Orest Babiuk at Port Alberni, B.C. married to Linda Hogg and they have 3 children; Victor Babiuk of Thompson, Manitoba, single; Victoria married Alexander Warren of Edmonton and has 2 boys; Rose married Curtis Kroschel of Alamosa, Colorado, U.S.A. They live in Rocky Mountain House, Alberta and have 2 children; Loratte married Walter Danyluk of Duvernay, Alberta. They have 4 children.

George lost his wife, Katie in the fall of 1964. He remained on the farm for two years afterwards, then sold out in 1966 and moved to St. Paul for one year. Finally he moved to Edmonton where he resides at the present.

EUGENE BELAND

by Suzanne Coutu

Eugene Beland was born in Quebec. At the age of 16 he decided to go to the States and from there travelled to B.C. Like all other pioneers he heard of the nice soil and cheap land to be had in Alberta, so out he came to Edmonton and then down to Duvernay. He took a homestead in 1904. He had to work hard to get a home and some land cleared.

In 1909, he married Jeanne Boileau, the daughter of F.X. Boileau. Her parents had the post office in Duvernay. In 1919, they sold their farm and also sold eighty head of cattle. At the time that they left Duvernay they had eight children: Joseph Antoine - 1910, Leon Eugene, Anselme Henrie - November 18, 1912, Marguerite Marie, Francois Xavier - August 9, 1915, Gabriel - January 13, 1917, Olive Rachel- August 10, 1918, and Mariette.

JOHN AND MARY BOYKO

by Elsie Gongas

John Boyko was born in the Ukraine in 1882. Mary Boyko was born in the Ukraine in 1886. They met in the Ukraine and married in 1906. One son, Bill, was born to them in 1908, in the Ukraine.

John came to Canada in 1909. Mary and son Bill, followed in 1910. They settled in Saskatchewan until 1922, when they then moved to Drumheller. In Drumheller, John worked as a coal miner and on the railroad. From Drumheller, they moved to the Hairy Hill district. Here John farmed and did carpentry work. In 1924, they moved to the Brosseau district where they bought two quarters of land. John farmed this land and did carpentry work until 1947 when they retired and daughter and son-in-law, Helen and John Hnatiuk, bought the farm. John and Mary then retired to Two Hills.

After moving to Canada, they were blessed with nine more children, making ten in total.

Bill married Mary Luciak and they were blessed with three girls.

Dora married Bill Ursulak and they were blessed with two boys and three girls.

Helen married John Hnatiuk and they were blessed with three girls and one boy.

Edith married Metro Mazar and they were blessed with one girl and one boy.

Jenny married George Yackemchuk and they were blessed with five boys and one girl.

Peter married Liz Rosychuk and they were blessed with twin boys and one girl.

Alex married Mary Chrapko and they were blessed with three boys and one girl.

Elsie married Nick Gongos and they were blessed with five girls and one boy.

Vicki married Rudy Lovstad and they were blessed with one boy and two girls.

Lou married Glen Moeller and they were blessed with three boys and two girls.

John passed away in 1952 and Mary in 1971.

Four of their children have passed away. Bill in 1952; Dora in 1967, Peter in 1974, and Helen in 1976.

THE BOYCHUK FAMILY

by Milton Boychuk

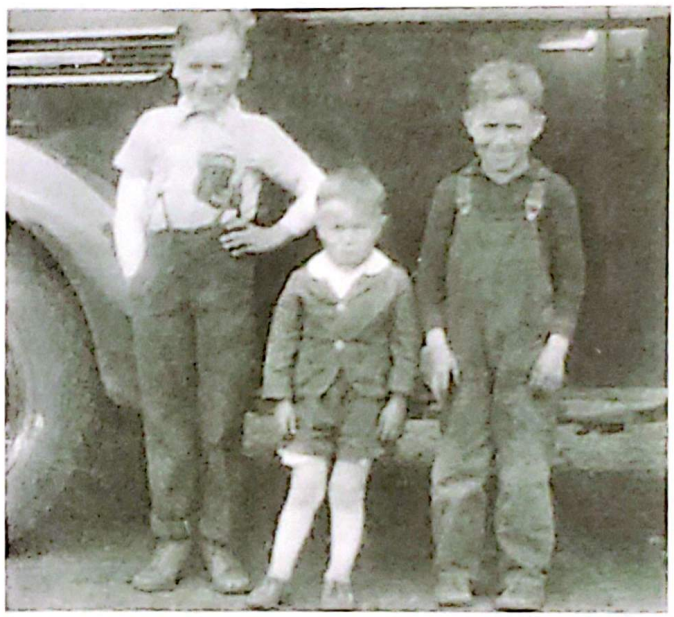
Fedir Boychuk, and his family, arrived in the new land, Canada, in the year of 1910, from the village of Mamaestie, province of Bukovyna, Ukraine. Fedir obtained a homestead by Lac Sante, just east of the Boychuk Lakeland Resort SW¼ 15-56-11-W4th. His greatest desire was to be close to the former villagers of Mamaestie, like the Taschuks, Logozars, Zawadiuks, Holynskys.

The farm was of poor quality, hardships were many but, there was always the prospect of a bright future which was practically non-existent in the old country.

The first year was spent in a "badger-hole" (a house partially built into the earth), while a log house was being built. The Mamaestie school was built in 1913 and was named after the village in Ukraine. Nearby, the settlers built the Mamaestie Orthodox Church which is still visited by the Ukrainian Orthodox priest from Two Hills.

Fedir Boychuk died in 1921, leaving a widow and five children: Barbara, John, Rachel, Mary and William. William attended the Mamaestie school, married, had 6 children, and still is farming in the Brosseau district. John also attended the Mamaestie school, married Mary Cherniwchan in 1930 and farmed in the Brosseau district. In 1942, John acquired a store and moved to Duvernay. Unfortunately, Mary died in 1944, leaving four children: Milton, Albert, Nick and Ronnie. On November 4, 1952 John remarried, his second wife being Regina Brosseau, daughter of Joseph and Lucie Brosseau, of Brosseau, Alberta. There are two children from this second marriage: Marian and Jim.

John continued to run his store business in Duvernay until 1954 when he moved to Edmonton and began a trucking business, Boychuk's Transport Ltd. This business grew to a work-force in excess of 40 employees and sixty trailers. John has since sold the business and is now retired.



Milton, Nick and Albert Boychuk taken in 1941. In the background is the truck, first in line the eventual Boychuk's Transport Ltd. Milton is 9 years old, Albert is 7 and Nick is 5.

The children have gone their separate ways. Milton, having married Lily Gorgichuk in 1956, has 3 children, and is boiler inspector for the Alberta Government, and lives in Sherwood Park, Alberta. Albert farms near Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta and, also has 3 children. Nick

John F. Boychuk and family taken in 1978, on the occasion of his 70th birthday. L to R. — Nick, Milton, Mrs. Lil Boychuk, Mrs. Regina Boychuk, J.F. cutting the cake, Albert, Jim, Marian and Mrs. Ronnie Babiuk.

Taken in 1927. Mary (Mrs. Nick Babiuk, Vegreville) and John Boychuk stooking the bountiful crop on the field just south of the Boychuk Lakeland Resort, Lac Sante. John Toderiuk, stepfather in on the binder.

remained in the trucking business, and you guessed it, has 3 children, Ronnie is vice-principal at the Valleyview High School and, no less has 3 children.

Marian, the only girl in this family, born July 31, 1954, is in Newfoundland, and Jim, born December 16, 1955, is following in his father's footsteps — drives trucks.

In 1977, John F. Boychuk received the 1977 Man-of-the-Year award at the Northern Alberta Transportation Club's annual meeting. It recognized Mr. Boychuk's contribution to transportation over his 40-year career, and in developing services outside the Edmonton area.

WILLIAM F. BOYCHUK

by Bessie Boychuk

My father and mother were Fred and Helen Boychuk. They came from a Ukrainian village called Chernavaz in 1910. They settled on a homestead, SW 14-56-11-W4th, near Brosseau, with their children, Barbara, Richeal and John. My sister, Mary Babiuk was born in 1911 and I, William in 1914, in Brosseau.

My parents farmed this land until my father passed away in 1921. The following year my mother married John Toderiuk. She passed away in 1939 and was buried near my father in the Mamaestie Cemetery of Brosseau.

When I married Bessie Rosychuk daughter of Nick Rosychuk and Anne Mohiluik, in 1935, we moved to NW 10-56-11-W4th. In 1939 I purchased 25-56-12-W4th in the Champlain district, the former Charlie Gordon farm, not too far from where I was born.

Bessie and I were blessed with six children:

Nick was born October 14, 1936, married Pearl Montchriel of Provost, Alberta, has 2 children, is a plumber in Edmonton.

MaryAnn born September 25, 1937, married John Dmytryk of Vegreville where they farm. They have 2 children.

Victor born April 3, 1939, married Margaret Yakimchuk of Hairy Hill, Alberta, is in the construction business in Vegreville.

Larry born October 29, 1948, married Linda Gendruik, Andrew, is a mechanic in Edmonton.

Lauraine born February 12, 1950, married John Chrapko of Two Hills, has 2 children and is in Leduc where her husband is a welder.

Leonard born October 8, 1952, married Claudia Poirier of St. Paul, has 2 children and is on the farm. He is also a welder.

I operated the Boychuk & Sons Construction Ltd., digging ditches etc. from 1957 to 1967, when I passed the digging business to my son, Victor, and went back farming full time.

Now, Bessie and I are semi-retired, living on the farm but leaving the work to Leonard and his wife, Claudia.

NICK ROSYCHUK

by Bessie Boychuk

Nick Rosychuk was born December, 1885, in Bukowina. Anne Mochiliuk was born there, too, on June 5, 1892.

When Nick Rosychuk came to Canada he lived northwest of Two Hills. Anne was at Pruth, Alberta, south of Willingdon. They were married in Soda Lake, Alberta.

Nick and Anne Rosychuk had 10 children:

In Two Hills are living:

Bill Rosychuk married to Nancy Belesk,
four children.

Alex Rosychuk married Emily Elkow, 3 children.

Metro Rosychuk married Rose Harasym, 2 children.

In Two Hills area:

Nick Rosychuk married Joyce Marko, 4 children.
Bessie Rosychuk married William Boychuk, 6 children.

In St. Paul are:

Kate Rosychuk married Alex Lupul, 3 children.
Elsie Rosychuk married Doug Fontaine, 2 children.
John Rosychuk married Hilda Zawadiuk, has 4 children and lives in Lloydminster, Alberta.
Tony Rosychuk married Irene?, has 3 children and lives in Edmonton.
Mary Rosychuk married George Taschuk, had 3 children, died 1968.
Nick Rosychuk died December 11, 1966. His widow, Anne is in the nursing home in Two Hills.

JOHN R. BOBER

John is the son of Frank & Longina Bober of Rzeszowe, Poland. He was born on Jan. 8, 1927. John and his parents came to Canada in June of 1928. They sailed from Gdynia, Poland on a S.S. Batory and landed in Halifax. From Halifax, they went to Edmonton by train, then on to Derwent. John went to school in Derwent in 1933 till 1945. Some of his teachers were J.W. Melnyk and Dan Chrapko. He then finished his grade 12. In 1946-1947, he went to the Vermilion School of Agriculture, and then began farming on N.W. 14-54-7-W4th. In 1948, he worked at the Treasury Branch in Vermilion as a ledger keeper.

On May 28, 1950, John married Anne Dutchak of Derwent. They got married in the Greek Catholic Church. Anne is the daughter of William & Margaret Dutchak. Anne was born on March 21, 1928. Anne went to Dunn Lake school. After her schooling, she went to work in Elk Point Hospital, and then in the Derwent Hotel till she met John R. Bober. After they were married, they went to live on N.W. 14-54-7-W4th. They started farming with 12 horses and they acquired their first John Deere D tractor in 1946.

Their first son Raymond was born on February 17, 1951 in the Vermilion hospital. Raymond married Leanne Kucher of Edmonton and they have one girl, Melodie. Raymond is now farming with his dad.

Their second son Gary was born on September 14, 1953 in the Myrnam hospital. Gary married Lois McCann of Fawcett, Alberta and they have 2 sons, Clayton and Tyler. Their third son Kenneth was born on August 22, 1954 in Myrnam.

Their first daughter Patricia was born on December 29, 1955 in Vermilion. She started off with A.G.T. as a Telephone Operater and now she is working with Public Relations with the Provincial Government.

Jimmy was born on September 6, 1960. He is now working for A.G.T. as a Telephone installer.

Angela was born on September 23, 1961. She is now working for Wawanesa Insurance Company as an underwriter.

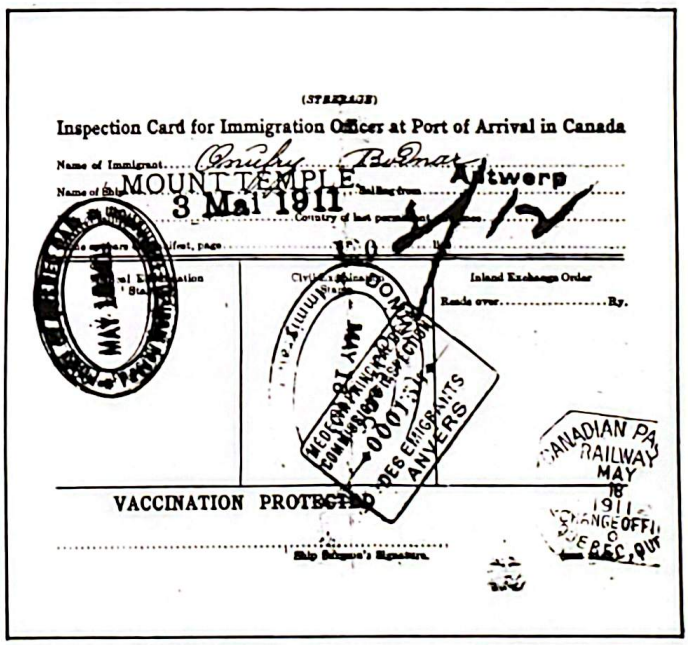
Bonnie was born on September 9, 1967. She is still going to school.

John was elected as councillor in Division 1 for the County of Two Hills #21 in 1971, a position he still holds today. Representing the county, John is on the Myrnam Seed Cleaning plant board, and the Two Hills General Hospital and Nursing Home board for 3 years. John is also a delegate on the Alberta Wheat Pool board, attending a 2 week convention every year to implement policy for the company. John has been secretary for the Village of Derwent for 10 years a position he still has. John and Anne are still farming raising cattle, hogs, and grain at Derwent, Alberta.

ONUFRY BODNAR FAMILY (FRED)

by Del Sudnik

There was a village. It was on the other side of the world. It may still, for all we know, be there. There was a house, overflowing with people. There was sorrow. But there was also hope! Tomorrow Stepan Kabage, his wife, Anna Hohol, and their three daughters and 1 son, Lena, Rosie and Pearl, (Alex) (Bill was born in Alberta) were leaving their home, their families, their heritage. They were going to a country called Canada, where there was land, much land, to be had for almost nothing. There was a dream of a better life, for themselves, their children and future generations. They would remember Orshewchi, Austria, for the rest of their lives and talk of it to their off-spring for generations to come.


(STEERAGE)
Inspection Card for Immigration Officer at Port of Arrival in Canada
Name of Immigrant... Onufry Bodnar
MOUNT TEMPLE
Antwerp
3 Mai 1911
VACCINATION PROTECTED

Onufry (Fred) Bodnar's passport.

The ship, brought this family, along with others to the strange new world. The year was 1905. They took the train west to Edmonton and from there went to live with

former friends in the Bellis district. They lived here for a time and then moved to live with the Plaska family in a 12 x 14 shack with a total of four adults and eight children calling this their home. For this trip from Bellis the family packed their meager belongings in a wagon and with one cow following behind made the trip into the Brosseau District. They lived in this arrangement till Stepan could stand it no longer and one day he announced to his family that he had made arrangements to purchase his own homestead a few miles south east. And so the family once again packed their belongings and moved to their own land — a bushy, uncleared quarter of land. They began to face the problem of making a living with the same courage and determination that is common to people from their native land. Some shelter was needed right away. The walls were up, the children asleep in the dug out part of the home. The rain came; the parents tried to shelter the children by holding up a 'covaritz' (wall hanging) over them, but it was like holding a screen over them. They were roused and in the early dawn shivered with the cold. The sun came up, warm and bright, and soon all were dried off and began the task of finishing their home.

John Bodnar, picture taken in 1916 at Brosseau on SW 17-56-11 W4, a cowboy of the day, riding out on the prairies looking after the bigger ranchers' cattle, for $1.00 a day, including his horse.

Some land was cleared and a small garden and some grain for the cow was planted but this was not enough, so Stepan, with a bag of bread and salted pork, set out on the first trek along the North Saskatchewan river to Edmonton to find work. This was to go on for many years. His wife and family would be left behind to care for themselves and the farm while he sought work elsewhere.

Of course, there were many people in the village whose relatives and friends had gone to Canada. Letters came back saying how good it is in Canada — it is possible to become rich and own much land. It was these tales that made up his mind. On April 22, 1911 Onufry (Fred) Bodnar said goodbye to his parents and siblings left the Kitsman, Austria district for a better life. He was sixteen years old. The trip across the waters was made on the ship, Mount Temple, arriving on the shores of Canada on May 3, 1911. After arrival in Halifax he set out to find work. He was young, strong and willing. Soon he was working in the paper mill in southern Ontario and wishing for better things. he decided Alberta was the place to be. He came further west soon got a job in the coal mines in the Drumheller, Lethbridge and Taber areas. He enjoyed life and recalls nights of revellry. One night in particular, he remembers. A group of young men were out on the town and spending money, hard earned money, lavishly, imbibed a bit too much and ended up seeing the inside of the local jail. His humerous remarks, many years later to his adult children, where 'A man has not totally lived unless he has seen the inside of a jail! I have lived!'

Things being as they were, three young men arrived in the district deciding to seek their fortunes elsewhere and decided that farming was the thing to do. They arrived in the Brosseau district and soon began courting

Fred and Pearl Bodnar with their children; Dorothy, Dell and Dave.

the Kabage girls. Lena was married to Peter Hnatuik, Rose to William Chemiwchan and Pearl to Fred Bodnar. All their lands were within a three mile radius of the Kabage land and the family ties remained in tact for many years.

In 1923 Fred and Pearl got married came to their own land, on the east shore of Brosseau Lake (Little Fish Lake), undeveloped, bushy, isolated, and started work on their dreams of a good life. The seasons came and went. The struggle for shelter and food continued. A child was born, he died, a daughter came, she too, could not survive in this harsh, desolate country. Dorothy was born

Fred and Pearl Bodnar on 50th Wedding Anniverary, January 28th, 1973

in March, 1925. She could not be nursed, the cow was dry. Was she, too, not to survive? Ahh'. Frank Smith's had a milking cow and Dorothy survived, thanks to the community spirit and willingness to assist from the neighbors. She grew and went to school at Mamaestie, she must learn and be smarter than her parents who did not have this chance. Life continues, some social life was necessary and the neighbors got together and built the Foisy Community Hall on a corner of Fred's brother John's quarter. Fred was quite active in the building and nuturing of the hall. There are many fond memories of plays, and weddings and bazars, parties and later movies about the old country. Oh what an event to look forward to. The Ukrainian traditions were carried on in this new world.

Dorothy was twelve when Dell was born and six years later David came to join the family. Life was getting a bit easier. Dell started school at Mamaestie and then went to Champlain and in Grade 3 the school bus started operating and the children were bussed into Two Hills. Dorothy was married to Mike Mickailyk a neighbor a few miles south and began their own lives. First on the farm and then to St. Paul and later moved to Edmonton where they still live. They have one son, Eric, married to Grace McGonigal, and Pearl and Fred now have their first great-grandson, Jarrod.

Dell was the first in their family to go on to High School in Two Hills and after graduation went to St. Paul where she lived with her sister and was employed. She married Alex Sudnik from the Lymburn district and started a different life from her parents. They moved to Calgary in 1967 with their two boys, Craig and Russ, but memories of 'home' remain.

Dave started school at Two Hills and finished in St. Paul, Glenavon High School. By this time Fred and Pearl had retired off the farm and were living in St. Paul enjoying a much easier life for the first time in their lives. After graduation Dave worked in St. Paul for a time and then 'wandered to northern Alberta but finally decided Calgary would be his home. Here he was married to Lynne Gavel and lives with his family. He has two daughters, Tasha and Talayna and one son, Trevor.

Three-quarters of a century ago Stepan Kabage made a decision. Fred Bodnar made a decision. Their descendants would enjoy a life much better than theirs and their ancestors.

We do — thank you!

GEORGE BODNAR

by George Bodnar

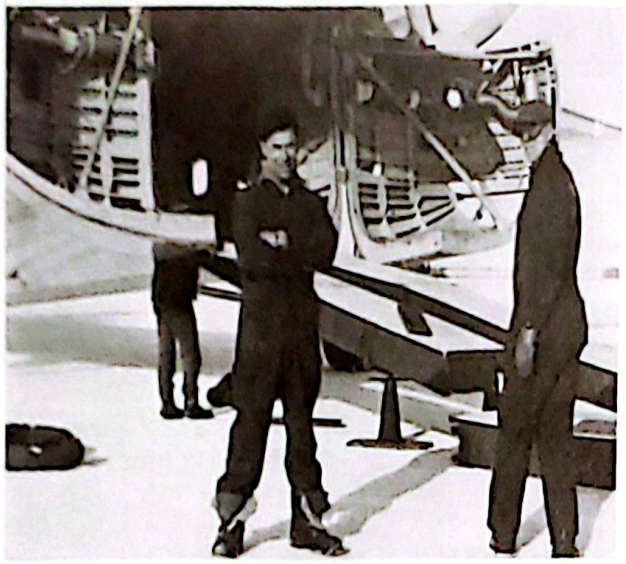
On a sunny Easter morning, April 28, 1926, a fourth son was born to Mr. and Mrs. John Bodnar, on SW¼ 17-56-11 W4, Brosseau. He was named George. This is his narrative:

I attended Mamaestie School, starting in 1933 and finishing Grade 9 in 1942. I had to walk four miles. One day we were playing Duck-on-a-Rock when I was it square on the forehead, making a hole in my skull.

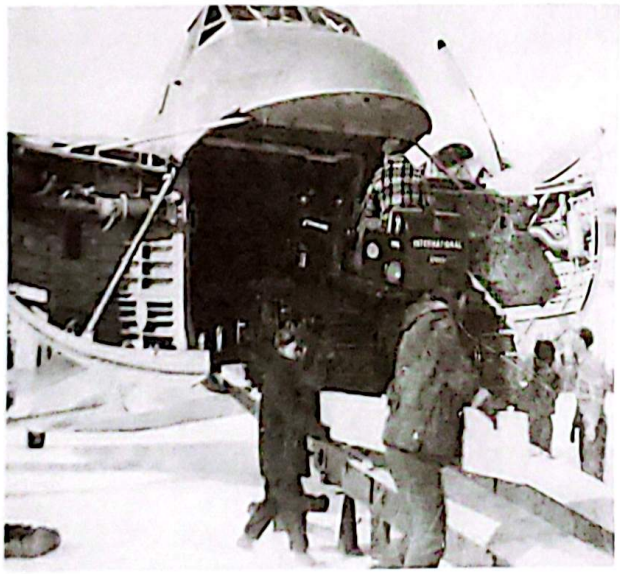
As I was growing up I helped my parents on the farm with whatever work there was. We would cut 50 loads of firewood every winter. We would go to saw wood for the neighbors. One morning I was helping Mr. John Boyko when, suddenly, my glove was caught in the saw and the thumb and one finger on my right hand dropped to the ground. In shock, I picked them up and put them in my pocket. I would have kept on working, but the other workers insisted that I go see the doctor. Mr. Oneschuk had a car but the roads were badly drifted. It took four hours to get to St. Paul where Dr. Decosse attended my injuries. My hand took a long time to heal. I kept my fingers for a long time until, one day, my mother buried them in the garden.

I first went to work for my uncle, Fred Bodnar, cutting brush for 50¢ a day. In 1943 I worked for Bill Werenka, Hairy Hill, Alberta, for $60.00 a month. There were few jobs to be found so I tried to enlist in the army, navy and airforce. When I went for my medicals I would hide my hand in my pocket. After seeing seven doctors, the last one said: "How the Hell did you get this far?" Well, that was it! I did not qualify!

I returned to farm with my father until 1946 when I went to Prince George, B.C. to work in lumber camps. In 1947 I went to the Hart Highway, driving the foreman



At Fort Resolution, N.W.T., left George Bodnar and right, Bob Smith, waiting for D7-Cat to come out of an aircraft. 1951.



Loading an International TD9 at Fort Resolution, N.W.T. in 1951, where George Bodnar worked for the Department of Transport.

George Bodnar Family in 1976 at Brosseau. L to R - Zenith, Christine, Tony, Anne (mother), George (father), Gordon. In front - Ken, Georgie.

around as he had no license. That fall, I went to St. Paul Flour Mill as a labourer, then promoted to foreman, on shift work, producing eight hundred 100-pound bags of flour per shift. In 1949 I was employed by Steve Dacyk, catskinning, cutting brush and breaking the land in the Elk Point, Derwent and St. Paul areas. This job did not last long because the boss died and everything closed down. This time I sought employment with the Department of Transport, taking me to Fort Resolution, N.W.T., as an airport attendant and part-time cook. There I was injured and spent some time in the Yellowknife Hospital. In 1952 I left that job and went to Vermilion, Alberta, with Haseniuk Construction for whom I was foreman.

While I was in Derwent I met Anne Moholuk. Anne was the daughter of Bill and Sophie Moholuk, born December 11, 1931 at home. In 1938 she started school at Angle Lake School and later, the pupils were bussed to Derwent. In 1948 she left school and worked on the farm, until 1950, when she went to Elk Point Hospital as a maid and, later as a cook. On November 8, 1952 Anne and I were married in the Holy Ghost Greek Catholic Church, Derwent, with Father Cherkowsky officiating. We had a reception at Angle Lake Hall and then, one week later, another at Foisy Hall, which was situated on the corner of John Bodnar's land.

After my marriage, I went back to work for Haseniuk Construction around Leduc and Calmar, Alberta, then transferred to Fosterton Field, Saskatchewan, while living at Success.

We finally came back farming and stayed with my father until May 5, 1953, when we moved to NE¼ 6-56-10 W4, land I had acquired in 1947, having paid $150.00 for a quarter and trading a 1953 Chev for another with my brother, Mike. This quarter had a house and a few other buildings on it. Here I started farming with horses and a Twin City steel-wheeled tractor and a few small pieces of machinery. We had a few cows and pigs. The winter of 1956 is not to be forgotten. The roads were drifted all the time.

On January 13, 1954 our first son was born in the St. Therese Hospital in St. Paul and we called him Gordon. Our second son, Tony, was born in St. Paul on March 28, 1956 and, our only daughter, Christine, on February 29, 1960 (a Leap Year baby).

Things were going well for us. I was renting more land and increasing my herds. I started building a pig barn when tragedy struck. Fire wiped out my house and all our belongings while we were visiting my mother in the hospital. A windstorm flattened the unfinished pig barn. Our kind neighbors, Alex and Bill Logozar, Mike Ternovoy and others collected donations of $600.00 in cash, as well as clothing, dishes, pots and pans, jars of home-canned foods, etc. We were so appreciative.

We went back to live with my father. That summer was a dry one! We threshed what we could salvage and then another misfortune overcame us. Somehow, fire caught in a field and we lost a granary holding 500 bushels of wheat.

A fourth son, Ken, was born in St. Paul on February 5, 1966 with Dr. Wilson in attendance.

I began to dream of more land and greater power to improve farming. I sold whatever I owned in the Lafond area, and bought Steve Zawadiuk's farm, NE¼ 7-56-11 W4 and moved there January 23, 1967. I also bought my father's land and still rent land which I farm with a 163 H.P. Massey-Ferguson tractor #2775 and a 410 Massey S.P. combine. We raise hogs, cattle, sheep, chickens and grow grain to keep our farm viable.

On March 18, 1968, George (Georgie) was born in St. Paul.

Gordon and Tony started school in Lafond. After the loss of our house and our move they were bussed to Two Hills. During the winter months I spent much time driving my boys to hockey. Tony and Gordon have played with St. Paul, Vegreville, Two Hills, Redwater and Viking. Christine wasn't to be left out. She also played hockey in Vegreville for two years.

As my children grew older they went out to different jobs.

After working at various jobs, Gordon has settled to be a grain buyer for UGG for three years and is presently living in Viking, Alberta. He married Gladys Rawlyk of Vegreville, Alberta, July 9, 1977 and has one child, Carolyn.

Tony works for Diachuk Construction in Vegreville. He married Judy Rawlyk of Vegreville May 8, 1976 and has two children, Jimmy and Tricia.

Christine attended school in Two Hills and graduated from high school in Vegreville. On May 20, 1978 she married Tony Van Der Horst and has two children, Tanya and Shannon. She and Tony both work in Vegreville where they make their home.

Zenith did not complete high school. He is now training as an agent for UGG in Viking.

Ken and Georgie are still attending school in Two Hills.

Every fall I go to Whitecourt, Grande Cache and Grande Prairie to get my quota of big game. All my family are fishermen. Living only one mile from Lac Sante we manage to get our share of Jackfish.

My 54 years of life have had tragedies and misfortunes but these were over-shadowed by happy events, good luck and good fortune. LIFE has been good to me.

Grandmother Annie Fedoruk.

THE FAMILY HISTORY OF MIKE AND MARY BANDURA

by Anne Darichuk

Mike Bandura was born November 5th, 1900 in Vaskiwtsi, province of Bukovina, Austria. Maritsa (Mary), Parasena (Pearl), Nick, Odokia (Nellie) and Metro were his brothers and sisters. At the age of six, Mike immigrated with his parents, John and Katarena (nee Shulko) from Vaskiwtsi in the year 1906. They settled in the Andrew area, later moving to the Dejarlais area also known as Hamlin. It was there that Mike grew up helping his parents on the farm through his boyhood days.

Mary, Mike's wife, was a daughter of Constantine Fedoruk of Ewankiwtsi, province of Bukovina, Austria, and Anne (nee Rusnak) of Nepolokiwtsi, province of Bukovina, Austria. She was born August 1904 in the Kaleland area where her parents settled on a farm after they immigrated to Canada. Other members of Mary's

Helen Bandura and Kost Fedoruk.

family were Katrina, Mafty, Mike, Ed, Rosina, Sidor, Nick, Andrew, Metro and Mabel. The number of children born in this family were 14, the names of the five children having died at birth or shortly after are unknown. Mary was hungry for knowledge so she took every opportunity to walk four miles to attend classes to learn the three "R's." She attended school until grade three.

Mike and Mary Bandura on wedding day, August 7th, 1922.

Mrs. Harbarenko and Mrs. Fedoruk in 1933.

Mary Fedoruk was the young girl chosen by the family members to be Mike's bride. The marriage vows were taken prior to the wedding day due to the fact that a minister was not available for the wedding day. They were married August 7th, 1922. The wedding dates coincide with the birthdates of two of the children, Ed and Doris. Both members remained at home until the actual wedding which took place August 10th, 1922 at the bride's home.

Mike and Mary lived on Mike's homeplace for two years. His father died October 1922, three months after their wedding. On July 14, 1923 John, the oldest son was born. Mike and Mary moved to a farm rental owned by George Emes, of Brosseau. They lived there for three years where Anne was born on February 4th, 1925 and Lucy on September 14, 1926. Then they moved to another farm rental in the Brosseau area, just south from the place they were, being that of Mrs. Melnychuk's. Helen was born January 6th, 1928. During the three years that they farmed this land, with no money and many difficulties they managed to purchase the home place. Here the family spent the greater part of their life, that being the S.E. ¼ Sec. 16, Twp. 56, Range 12 in the Brosseau area which to all pioneers is known as the Bandura Rolling Hills. During the last year of the Melnychuk rental they began to clear and build on their land. Since there was no available money the agreement for the purchase of the virgin land was ½ crop share. Mary's brother Nick sent cousin George Fedoruk with a tractor to break the first twenty acres. Further opening of the land progressed with the help of the local Indians from the Saddle Lake Reserve. Payment was settled by means of food, lodging and trade for daily needs. They had their families residing in tents with them as they laboured. Mike took great pride in his horses; many an hour was spent making roads in return for the taxes after the major work was done at home. The hours of hard work made it necessary to alternate the weaker horses to half days. Mary to many was known as the local veterinarian. She nursed many sick cattle and horses, and even operated on turkeys.

The remainder of the Bandura children were born on this land: Steve Harry, September 26th, 1929; Lorraine Adeline, known as Laura, born July 26th, 1931; Vivian Doris, born August 10th, 1934; Edward Richard, August 7th, 1936; and Kathleen Jean, born November 10, 1937. Of all the children, Steve and Kathleen were

Mike and Mary Bandura's farmstead under construction in 1935.

the only two born in a hospital; Steve in St. Paul and Kathleen in Vegreville. The remainder of the children were born at home with the assistance of a midwife.

Their living quarters at first was a small log cabin. Later on August 7th, 1936 the family moved into the new home, that being the day Ed, the third youngest son was born. A team of three year old horses was the payment for the builders of this home.

Depression caused many a hardship for the family. All sustenance came from hard work. Gardening, raising sheep, and cattle, stooking and canning were the duties of all members of the family. Mary would plant and gather seed from her garden for the next year's crop. She had planted three of the nicest carrots to grow into seed, but when John went to get the cows, hunger got the best of him and out came the carrots one by one. Not always successful as one can see. The cucumbers that were pickled were put away in a wooden barrel.

To the family, water was one of the most missed luxuries. Seven wells were drilled and in the end the hand dug shallow well a quarter of a mile away, supplied the water to the household and livestock all of which had to be hauled in. Helpful neighbors, relatives and friends contributed much to the essential needs of this large family.

On the brighter side of life Mother Bandura relates this story about the well. John and Anne got hungry while their mother was sick in bed. They decided they could fend for themselves by getting food out of an encased well with lowered shelves. Anne decided to let John down holding only his hands. As she proceeded to do so John fell (guess where) onto the ice in the well with one foot right down into the water. It took her some time to get help, cause she had to run to the house hollering for help. Mother, pregnant as she was, was able to rescue him from the well.

A small shack was purchased from Dick Fife with the proceeds of stooking and farm produce. This was used by the older children to attend the Two Hills High School. Elementary school was attended at St. Laurent School No. 1614. The younger children were bused into Two Hills.

In 1952 they moved to land owned by Fred Rusnak where they rented until 1955. At this time the family separated and Mike went into Edmonton leaving Mary and the youngest, Kathleen behind. Mary moved to Edmonton in late fall the same year.

Mike was employed at various places until he retired. His employment included working for Healy Motors and Sterling Memorial in Edmonton. He spent the later years of retirement in a self contained trailer at his son's (Ed) acreage in Sherwood Park. Mary took employment as a live-in housekeeper and babysitter until retirement. Her work was greatly appreciated by a great many people. Some of the people include Dr. and Mrs. Kornell, Mr. and Mrs. York and Mr. and Mrs. Lewis.

Mary now lives in Edmonton, constantly rendering her services to her large family.

Since hospitals and doctors were used very seldom, home remedies were used by Mother Bandura in treating the family's ailments. Some of the more commonly used ones are listed below:

1) Sap from the milkweed was used for destroying finger warts.
2) Extreme bleeding was stopped by the application of a brown puff ball, picked outdoors and resembling a mushroom.
3) The liquid from boiled sheep's wool was used for curing ringworm.
4) Herbal tea, today known as Caramilo, was used for fevers, colds, sore throats, etc. This is gathered outdoors in the summer and dried.
5) Mustard plasters were applied for chest colds.
6) Vinegar applied immediately to a burn prevented blistering and scarring.

With tender loving care and in their own special way, these treatments kept this large family well and healthy. Although these remedies are considered unwise today, the belief of many of the older generation is that they are still a great benefit to those who continue to use them.

Trials and tribulations touch the lives of many people. Such was the case of the children in the Bandura family. The following episodes touched their lives and faith brought them through it all. Today reliving these incidents causes laughter and brings tears to the eyes.

These events are meant to add a touch of humor to many people, who in some small way shared the experiences with the Bandura clan.

Steve was a very lively and fun loving person. Many of the girls attending the St. Laurent School, will recall getting a ride to school in the Caboose. Steve's habit was accidentally (on purpose) tipping over the Caboose and then bursting with laugher as he watched screaming females fight their way out to safety.

Helen having taught school at St. Laurent had an unusual experience. After a hard day at school, she hitched the horse to the buggy and headed home. The horse's bridle flap opened up and the horse proceeded to run away. Turning the final corner homeward bound, the buggy overturned. There sat Helen with all her passengers, tests, books and lunch kits, stranded in the ditch. This was a sight to behold. The faithful pony proceeded home, waiting at the gate to be let in.

Ed was not too keen on working, especially when it came to weeding the garden on one of those hot, sultry days. We wonder, if he remembers having a cat nap instead of weeding and waking up, sort of shocked when the Stoneboat rode over him. So much for that peaceful sleep.

Laura's life centered around her love for animals. When she left home so did Pinto, her faithful pony. The horse accompanied her to Trochu, Calgary and was finally put to rest at a ripe old age. When leaving home, Laura may recall bidding farewell, only to find that she

lost part of her hair in the threshing machine. She sported a bald spot for awhile, as hair transplants weren't common in those days.

Lucy's love for cooking kept her in the house a lot. The day she decided to run out of the house was a mistake, as she landed in Mom's canner of boiling hot jam. Sure wasn't a pleasant experience.

With regard to Lucy's wedding day, Connie Bachelet will recall her experiences of babysitting with the rest of the Bandura children. Mother and Dad had left for Three Hills for the wedding and one of the sheep took sick. The children convinced Connie that the only way it would get better was to cut it's tail off. This was done and what a mess. Poor Connie, I don't believe that she had ever seen so much blood before or after.

Mother and Doris remember the move to Rusnak's farm. Dad hooked an old trailer, loaded with odds and ends, behind the tractor and away they went. Low and behold the trailer let go and into the ditch they went. They weren't even missed, as Dad didn't bother to look back.

John's first car in 1944 was a Model T and a real treat. On his arrival home he decided to take some of the children to the lake for a ride. Riding space for the large family was limited, so guess who got put in the trunk? Ed and Doris. When the trunk closed all the screaming in the world didn't help rescue them, as the Model T roared louder. That's the last trunk ride these kids took, coming home it was the running board.

Kathleen recalls joining a Hockey Team after leaving home. Real exciting and only one problem — a broken nose.

Here is a résumé of what happened as the years passed.

John spent most of his life doing mechanically inclined labor. In September of 1950, he married Edith Adams of Calgary. They now live in Torrington, Alberta where John is self-employed. The family consists of 3 boys and 1 girl — Richard, Randy, Gary and Julie.

Anne went into banking and the secretarial related fields. On June 15, 1946, she married William Darichuk of Mundare, Alberta. They still farm in this area and have a family consisting of 1 boy and 3 girls — Lillian, Dennis, Christine and Karrie.

Lucy's travels took her into various business related fields. On April 7, 1951, she married Stan Milan of Three Hills, Alberta. The couple still farm and raise cattle in this area. Six children surround their lives consisting of 2 girls and 4 boys — Bernie, Vivian, Peggy, Miles, Murray and Kip.

Helen being a business minded woman has worked in this field at various levels. June 20, 1951, she married Lawrence Milan of Calgary, a cat skinner. They are blessed with 8 girls — Lynn, Vera, Iris, Fay, Hope, Cherry, Loretta and Gail. Helen and Lawrence now take an active part in real estate in Calgary. Helen's excellent effort has taken her to the top level in Melton Sales.

Back row from L. to R. Mike Bandura, John, Lucy with her arms around her mother, Steve, Helen. Front row Laura, Doris and Jean.

Steve's life has centered around the mechanical world. He is well known for his operation of various Service Stations. September 4, 1954, Steve married Angelin Workun of Edmonton. Operation of Steen River Services on the Mackenzie Highway, let Steve, Angie and their two sons — Brian and Darryl spend some precious years together. Angie was taken from them on February 9, 1979, as a young woman.

Laura's life for the most part has been spent as a faithful Canada Safeway Employee within the Calgary area. Laura and Doug McTavish were married June 26, 1956 and have one son — Hugh. They reside on an acreage in Dewinton, Alberta. Doug is employed by Dominion Bridge.

Doris left home and worked her way into a cashier and bookkeeping operator career. She spent the last 9 years of employment with the Canadian Customs. The last family member to be married, Doris and Adam exchanged vows October 7, 1961. Doris is now a homemaker and Adam is a bricklayer. Their four children are 2 girls and 2 boys — Lori, Bonnie, Kirby and Jason.

Ed worked for the CNR for sometime. He also operated a Service Station, branching off into the towing business. On November 5, 1960, Ed married Irene Striech. Today Ed and Irene have 3 children, 2 girls and 1 boy — Sandra, Wanda and Shane. Ed is self-employed now, operating mainly heavy duty equipment.

Kathleen's life centered around the Nurse's Aid Field. In later years she took up hairdressing and operated her own Beauty Salon in Hinton. Residing in Edmonton for some time, Kathleen and her husband Jack were married Sept. 19, 1959. Today they make their home in Hinton, Alberta with their 3 children, 2 boys and 1 girl — Blaine, Clinton and Shelly. Jack is self-employed in the Sheet Metal Field.

The family circle of the nine children and the parents was broken in 1979. Mike Bandura, the pioneer of the Brosseau area passed away August 13, 1979, at the age of 79. Also on February 9, 1979, the beloved wife of Steve, Angelin was called away. Many fond memories linger with us and may they rest in peace.

It is our wish that further generations will in some way benefit by the experiences that their forerunners lived with and lived through.

Dedicated to the many people who have shared our ancient heritage and to the generations that will follow.

We remain

The Bandura Families

The Boulianne Family and other Quebecers getting off the Train in Edmonton. The Boulianne's were going to Brosseau, and others to Peace River.

PAUL EMILE BOULIANNE

by P.E. Boulianne

Paul Emile, son of Joseph Emile Boulianne, was born August 18, 1910 at La Riviere au Doré, County of Roberval, Quebec, Canada. He attended the little parochial school and took a commercial course at the Seminary of Chicoutimi from 1925-1927. On June 28, 1939, Paul Emile married Elianne Mailloux (daughter of Remi Mailloux and Dulice Perigny, born March 21, 1921 at Normandin, Quebec) at St. Edmond des Plaines, situated about 20 miles from La Riviere au Doré.

After their marriage he bought a farm in his native parish. He became secretary of the "Union des Coopertives" of Canada, director and vice-president for eight years. Furthermore, he worked for the deputy for approximately ten years. As a reward, he and two of his friends obtained, for his parish, a timber limit of 131 square miles. This timber permit and sawmill are still in operation.

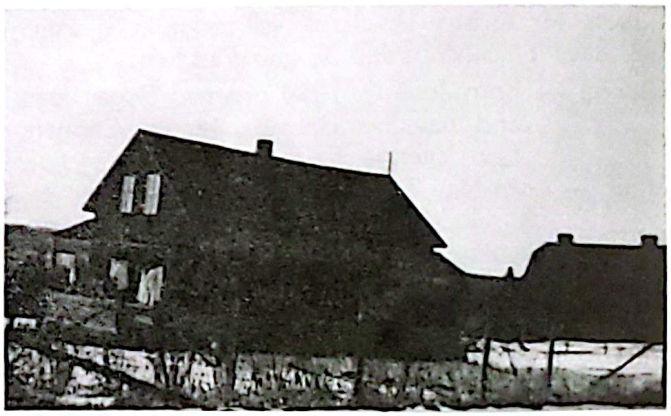
Since 1952, a campaign was being conducted to decongest the parishes of Quebec, by sending families either to Northern Ontario, Peace River or La Corey in Alberta. Approximately 70 families from the Lac St. Jean region responded and moved to the west.

In February 1954, Paul Emile Boulianne decided to come to Brosseau, Alberta to look over the situation there. He flew to Edmonton and was met by Father Bouchard, Louis Boucher and Rene Robinson. He was persuaded to buy, in wintertime, Albert Saulou's farm, E½ 8-56-12-W4th. He returned to Quebec, sold his farm there, some of his machinery and his registered milk cows. He left, by train, with his family, plus six other families from St. Felicien, a neighboring parish, for Alberta. They also brought 8 cars full of animals, machinery and possessions. For four days and nights they lived together in this train, using a small stove to cook their meals. This train was really jumping along the tracks with its load of 13 adults and 33 children.

They arrived in Edmonton to be met by Louis Boucher. He told them jokingly that they would be greeted by a grand reception, of three orchestras waiting at the station, when in reality, it was for the arrival of the army.

Finally he arrived at the "Promised Land" in Brosseau on May 19, 1954. Alas! It was not as it had been promised, but, Mr. Boulianne does not speak about that now.

As Mr. & Mrs. Boulianne had 8 children they soon made friends. They attended the St. Laurent Church and the children attended the local school, St. Laurent Separate School, where they had to learn English.



The old Albert Saulou place bought by Mr. and Mrs. Paul Emile Boulianne in 1954.

The Boulianne family did not know about Hallowe'en and the tricks played. On October 31, 1954 while they were preparing for bed, some pranksters pulled the switch off on the post in the yard, leaving the place in darkness. Paul jumped out of bed, jumped into his old car and followed the young folks hoping to get their licence numbers. About a mile away he realized that he was still in his underwear, so, he turned around, on the road, and went back to his house.

Later on he learned about Hallowe'en customs, and could laugh about his nocturnal experience of 1954.

The Boulianne Family in 1964; back row — left to right — Suzanne, Arthur, Candide, Marie Marthe; middle row — Paul Emile Boulianne, Brigitte, Elianne (mother) Henry Paul; front row — Camille, Gilles, Gerard Magella, baby Michelle.

In May 1969 he disposed of his farm, selling it to his son-in-law, Jules Bachelet, and moved to St. Edouard and finally to St. Paul. There he was caretaker of the church, the grounds and the cemetery until his retirement in 1978. Mr. & Mrs. Boulianne still reside in St. Paul. They have 11 children and 32 grandchildren.

Suzanne — born June 9, 1940, married Roger Jean and has five children, Nicole, Carmen, Lise, Yvonne, Linda.

Arthur — born May 7, 1941, married Helene Warwaruk, has 6 children, Marcel, Carol, Marc, Caroline, twins Claudette and Claire, Carla.

Candide — born May 21, 1942, married Gaetan Ouellette, had 5 children, Diane, Daniel, Pierre, Monique, Rachel.

Marie Marthe — born August 14, 1943, married Jules Olivier Bachelet, has 4 children, Joseph, Caroline, Chad, Roger.

Ernest — born February 29, 1948, married Ange Marie Forent, has 2 children, Gabriel, David.

Henri Paul — born January 9, 1950, married Marianne Rogan, has two children, Ronald, Richard.

Gerard Magella — born April 29, 1951.

Gilles — born October 4, 1953, married Eileen Rogan, has three girls, Sherry, Shelly, Aline.

Brigitte — born November 8, 1955, married Herman Poulin, had four children, Isabelle, Stephane, Jolaine, Miguel.

Camille — born March 19, 1959.

Michelle — born April 13, 1964.

MARIUS BOULIANNE

by Paul Emile Boulianne

Marius Boulianne and his wife (Marie Claire Rochefort) were born in La Riviere au Dore, County of Roberval, Quebec Canada. They have one son Paul Andre and an adopted son, Jean Luc.

In 1954, seeing the exodus of friends from Dore for the West, and, the departure of his brother, Paul Emile, and family, he decided to sell his home and move, too. Marie Claire and the boys embarked on the same train as his brother while Marius, being a truck driver, came with his truck, loaded with their possessions.

The organizer of this movement, to settle Quebec families in Alberta, had him buy SE¼ 1-56-12-W4th from John Logozar which, later on, Marius considered as one of the worst farms in Brosseau, with its sloughs and gumbo.

Misfortune befell him! Four months after his arrival in Brosseau he was hospitalized in Two Hills Hospital for seven weeks for blood poisoning in one hand, finally having one finger amputated.

Sue, Chris and John Obrekish with their school bus driver Marius Boulianne.

While in Brosseau, Marius was also bus driver, transporting the children to the St. Laurent Separate School until 1957 when Mr. Bernard Wirachowsky took over.

During this second winter, during a very cold night, their house burned, destroying most of their clothes and furniture. This was the last straw! After spending three years in Brosseau, Marius disposed of his farm which is now owned by Alex P. Taschuk. He decided to return to his birthplace in Quebec and start anew amongst his friends and relatives, away from misfortune.

ADELARD BECHARD AND FAMILY

by Suzanne Coutu

Mr. Adelard Bechard was born in St. Gerome Quebec. He married in 1902 and stayed with his in-laws for one year. Then like many others he heard of the great opportunities in western Canada at that time, so they left the comfortable home of his father-in-law and came to

The Bechard home built on their new homestead in Saskatchewan after they left their log home in Duvernay in 1914.

Mr. & Mrs. Adelard Bechard with their 6 children and an unidentified friend. Front row left to right; Jeanne, Beatrice, Eugene. Center row left to right. Rene, Yvonne and Rosalma.

Edmonton. When he got here, there was no place for him and his family to live, so he had to buy lumber and build himself a small house. Before he had the building completed he had it sold at a handsome profit. He kept on building small houses and selling them as fast as they were completed. He had a good business going, if he had stayed, he might have turned out to be one of the first building contractors in Edmonton. But Edmonton was not for him and he wanted to go homesteading instead. At that time South Bend, now called Duvernay, was where all the settlers were heading for and Mr. Bechard was one of them. In 1904 he filed on the N.E. 30-55-11-4. It was a beautiful place on the banks of the North Saskatchewan River. Mrs. Bechard did not like this place because it was so isolated and far from any neighbors. Often she would look out of the back window of her log house and see bears and wild animals in the backyard. She was left at home alone most of the time with her young children as Mr. Bechard was out doing carpenter work for their neighbors in exchange for work they did for them.

After the homestead duties were done and he got his title, he sold out and bought the S.W. 25-55-12-4 from the Hudson Bay Company. It was only half a mile from Duvernay and on the old Battleford trail. Mrs. Bechard felt much better there, living in a new, spacious two-story house, which Mr. Bechard had built for them.

Mr. Bechard kept himself busy building for the towns of Brosseau and Duvernay which was booming at that time. Again in 1914 he got the urge to move again. This time they moved to Southern Saskatchewan where he and two of his brothers bought land in a new township. When the railroad came in, the place was called Bechard in his memory. He was to be one of the most successful farmers in the area.

Mr. & Mrs. Bechard had a family of six children; Yvonne married Adrien Ouellette, who's father homesteaded in Brosseau, Rose Alma married Leon Desautel, Jeanne married Hans Loby, Beatrice married Wilfred Shultz and two boys Rene and Eugene.

EMILE BELISLE

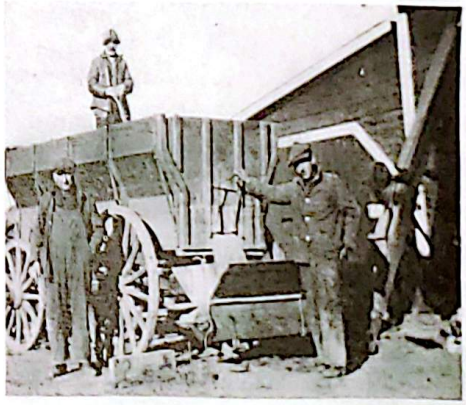
by Thérèse Belisle Theroux

Emile Joachim Belisle (1882-1962) eleventh and youngest child of François Belisle (1837-1925) and Elizabeth Pelletier (1846-1920) of St. Edwidge, P.Q. came west in March of 1903. He took a homestead south of Duvernay, then South Bend. He did not live on it but went to Old Vegreville where a small settlement was being established. There he built his first blacksmith shop. In February, 1905, he married Melinda Tetreault (1884-1920). In 1906 when the railroad passed five miles away, Mr. and Mrs. Belisle moved to the new site, and Mr. Belisle built a new shop. He worked in it until 1911 when he sold it to Mr. Harkness and moved to South Bend-Duvernay with his wife and two children, Florentine and Francis. He built the first blacksmith shop, next to Mrs. Rioux's store. The next door neighbor was a Mr. Ouellet, the teacher at Duvernay School where Florentine started her studies. Every day he and the children from the village walked up the hill and across to the school. Francis who was then four years old, spent most of his time sitting on Mr. Joe Lapierre's steam engine, watching it and the sawmill work. One day Mr. Lapierre, whose father was named Frank, asked Francis if he would like to change his name to Frank, for the fabulous sum of twenty-five cents. This offer was eagerly accepted as, in those times, a quarter was a small fortune for a little boy and to this day he has always been called Frank.

Emile Belisle sold his shop in Duvernay to Frank Lapierre in 1916, moved back to Vegreville, and opened another shop, a bit west of Charlie Gordon's lumber yard. He worked there until 1919 when, due to a bad back, he had to change occupation and moved to the farm three miles south of town. In February of 1920, after a few days of illness, his wife passed away, another victim of the dreaded flu.

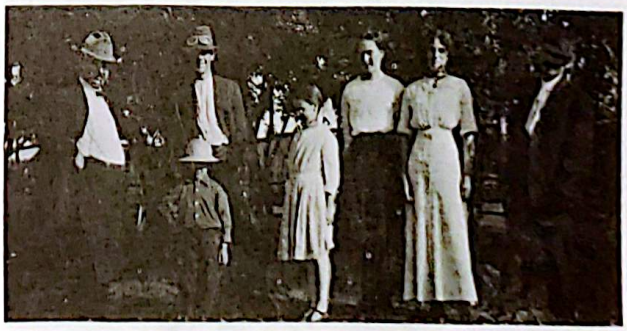
From left to right, Frank Belisle, his wife Mathilda, Bernard Kneeling in front of him, his wife Lana and baby girl Leanne. Hazel and husband Raymond, Lucile and husband Victor holding son Marc. Front row Jocelyn, Paul, Denis Belisle.

Sr. Marie Emilie
(Florentine Belisle)
Fille de la Providence
(1905-1978)



In grain box, neighbor Mr. Martiniuk. Standing beside rear wheel of wagon Emile Belisle, to the right, Frank Belisle, appox. 1927, unloading grain with hopper and elevator, all made by Mr. Belisle.

Frank Belisle hauling grain with four horses on the tank wagon in the late twenties.



Left to right — Emile Belisle, Glen Trump small boy, Frank Belisle in foreground, Florentine Belisle, Mrs. Emile Belisle, Mrs. Gadbois, Lucien Gadbois, (early 1910's).

Mr. and Mrs. Armand Theroux, on their 40th wedding anniversary, (1977) with their children and grandchildren.
Back row; Gerald Robinson, Jean Robinson, Laurette Robinson, Suzanne Theroux, Lorraine Robinson, Lise Robinson, Lucie Robinson. Next row; Maurice and Ken Theroux, Henri Robinson and Linc Robinson, Jeannette, Roger and Diane Theroux, Doug Foster, Ernie Gamroth. Seated; Verna Theroux, Pierrette Robinson, Theresa and Armand Theroux, Tina and Yvette Foster, Denise and Paul Gamroth. Seated on floor; Kevin Theroux, Marc Robinson, Pierre Theroux, Normand Theroux, Derek Gamroth.

Therese (Belisle) Theroux principal Lafond School with her daughte Denise, 1967.

He sold his farm and moved back to town and the shop, with a partner to do the shoeing of the horses, this was the part that his back could not tolerate.

In 1921 he had to repossess his farm, so he farmed, Frank now being old enough to help. In 1927 he was remarried to Alice Prince of Paradise Hill, Sask. In 1943, when Frank was married and could take over the farm, he moved to the town of Vegreville where he worked for some time in George Black's Tire Shop. Later he moved to Port Alberni, Vancouver and in 1954, it was back to the prairies, settling down in Edmonton. He worked very little after this, as his health was slowly deteriorating. After a short illness, he passed away on July 6, 1962, four months before his 80th birthday, a victim of cancer.

His family consisted of:

Florentine (1905-78) became a nun in 1933 in the order "Les Filles de la Provindence". She taught for 46 years in Alberta and Saskatchewan, and passed away after a six-week illness, another victim of cancer.

Francis (Frank) Eugene (1907) married Mathilda Laglois in Jan./43. Their family consists of three sons:

Victor (1944) married Lucille Sabourin and they have three chidlren: Jocelyn (1970), Denis (1972), Marc (1977).

Raymond (1946) married Hazel Scott in 1971 and they have one son Paul (1973).

Bernard (1953) married Lena Adams in 1976 and they have one daughter Leane (1979).

Therese Marie (1915) married Armand Theroux in 1937. Their five children are:

Pierrette (1938) married Henri Robinson (1932) in 1955. They have nine children; Laurette (1956), Jeanmarie (1957), Jacques (1958), Gerald (1959), Lorraine (1961), Lucie (1963), Lise (1964), Line (1967), and Marc (1971).

Maurice (1939) married Verna McIsaac (1943) in 1964. They have two sons Kenneth (1966) and Kevin (1969).

Roger (1943) married Jeannette Brault (1941) in 1963. Their four children are Suzanne (1964), Diane (1966), Pierre (1967) and Normand (1968).

Yvette (1946) married Wayne Blanchard in 1968 and they had one daughter Christina (1969). She was remarried to Douglas Foster in 1975. They have one daughter, Melanie (1978).

Denise (1948) married Ernest Gamroth (1946) in 1970. Their three children are Paul (1972), Derek (1974) and Danielle Marie (1979).

DELPHIS AND ALICE BIENVENUE

by Yvette Ternovoy

In the spring of 1922, the people of Duvernay were in need of a blacksmith, so Mr. Louis Rioux contacted Delphis Bienvenue of Vegreville about the job. Mr. Rioux helped the family move to Mr. Labreque's house, as there was no other living quarters in the town.

Mr. Bienvenue worked in Duvernay for one year and then accepted an offer from J.B. and Joe Brosseau to move across the river to Brosseau where there were better opportunities. This blacksmith shop was better equipped and there was more work as many farmers were breaking new land. Besides there was a house for the family to live in on the adjacent lot. Mrs. Bienvenue was very happy to have her own home for a change. So Mr. Bienvenue with the help of the Brosseau's moved their belongings across the river on the ferry which was operated by Basil Theroux at the time.

I can remember when we had a toothache, my dad would call Mr. Joe Brosseau to pull it out. He was our local volunteer dentist. He even supplied his own nickle plated teeth pulling forceps. He had a Mclaughlin Buick car and he sat us on the running board, which he used as his dentist chair and out came the tooth. It was quite a relief to get rid of that sore tooth. I'm sure he helped many get rid of these pains. To my knowledge nobody ever got infection and I'm sure he never lost a patient while performing these humanitarian acts.

As the years went by, the bridge was built and the railroad came to Two Hills, and the business in this area slackened. The farmers could get their work done in the new town of Two Hills, while doing other business at the same time. So Mr. and Mrs. Delphis Bienvenue decided to move back to Vegreville.

Their family consisted of five children, Yvette, Gustave, Annette, Cecile and Marcel. Yvette married Bill Ternovoy.

Cecile Bienvenue, early thirties

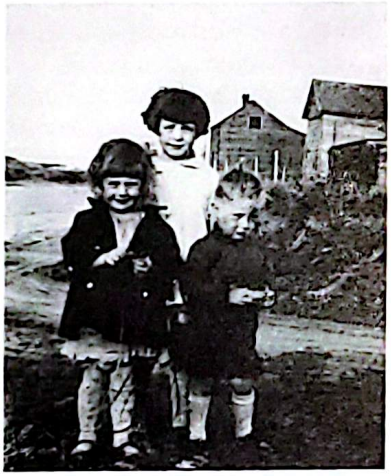
Yvette Bienvenue (Ternovoy), George Emes and Cecile Bienvenue in front of Leonard Girard's house in Brosseau, early thirties.

THE E.F. BIGLAND FAMILY

by Kathleen Bigland

We moved to Duvernay in 1928, from Lake Isle, where our father had a general store. Dad had bought the Riverside Hotel at Duvernay. There were five children, Jim, Vic, Kathleen, Barbara, and the baby Bruce. Our youngest brother, Leonard, was born at Duvernay.

Jim and Vic went to the United Church boarding school at Vegreville, and I (Kathleen) started school in Duvernay where Miss Roy was the Teacher. I walked to school with Cecile and Omer Theroux.



Kateleen, Barbara and Bruce Bigland in 1929.

The first few years we were in Duvernay the only way to cross the river was by ferry in the summer and by a road on the ice in the winter. I remember the farmers with their horse-drawn sleds hauling wheat to the nearest rail line and elevators in Two Hills. As children we loved to hitch rides home from school on cold winter afternoons, especially if the farmer carried lots of straw to snuggle into. If he had bells on his harness that was a special treat. Mr. Lavallee had beautiful sleigh bells and spirited horses. He was kind to small children who had a mile and a half to walk.

It must have been in 1930-31 that a steel bridge was built between the two villages of Duvernay and Brosseau. No longer was it necessary to take chances crossing on rubbery ice in the spring and fall, or not being able to cross at all in the few days when the ferry could not run and before the ice was safe to drive on.

The river was a very important recreation to us. The boys' favorite swimming hole was just below the village. They used the abandoned gold dredge to dive from. May 24th was a magic day to the young ones. If you hadn't been for a swim by the 24th, you were chicken! Some years it seemed that the ice hadn't been gone long before that date. There was a spot above the bridge where the water was shallower and gentler, and that was where the girls preferred to swim.

My brothers knew a couple of places where there were deep pools, one was below the dredge, where they occasionally were lucky enough to catch Winnipeg gold-eyes. We kids thought they were bony, but our parents knew they were gourmet!

In the winter our favorite sport was skating on the river, and sliding on the river bank hills. Toboggans were fine on some of the hills, but on the steep ones a piece of corrugated cardboard made a fast ride. Those were the days of heavy melton cloth ski pants, thick knitted socks, moccasins with rubbers, or overshoes with four buckles. I can still remember the feel of half frozen toes and fingers when we took our skates off and hurried home for supper.

We went to school if the temperture was not colder than twenty two below. Even little children learned to read thermometers early.

During the early thirties some of the men from the village began panning for gold on the river. Jim and Vic were young boys then, but with Dad's help they set themselves up with an outfit and they spent a couple of summers working on the sand banks up the river from the bridge. They remember taking their precious nuggets into Two Hills to be sold.

Leonard, Lilly, Ted and Bruce Bigland.

When the hotel was sold to the Mortimers, we moved across to Brosseau. Our father sold insurance, was Sherrif, and Justice of the Peace. Being an accountant by profession, he also was a sort of unofficial ombudsman, writing letters and interceding in matters of law and business for many of the farmers.

We children went to the one room school about two miles from the village, where Miss Carmen Brosseau was our beloved teacher. I believe she must have been just out of Normal School when I was in grade four, and she was only a few years older than some of the "big kids" in grade eight. What a marvelous teacher she was, handling eight grades, teaching English and French besides all the regular subjects to children from at least three different cultures, French Canadian, Ukrainian and a few of British descent. She somehow found time to prepare us for musical and drama events in the district drama festivals every year, put on a huge Christmas concert, made a special day out of each of her student's birthdays, celebrated with the whole class each turn of the season with a picnic or party. Miss Brosseau contributed more than she ever knew to the happiness of the children she taught.

Ted and Lilly Bigland with Jim and Victor when they joined the forces in 1940.

Letty Peterson, Mrs. Patlatsky, Mrs. Barnes. I cannot recall the lady in the hat. Mr. and Mrs. Bigland standing in the back.

The Bigland family in 1965. Leonard, Bruce, Barbara, Kathleen, Victor and Jim.

Barbara and her husband in 1979.

We eventually moved back to Duvernay for a couple of years, and then to Edmonton in 1939. Our father found a job as Accountant in the Canadian Army, at first in Camrose and later in Edmonton. Jim and Vic joined the Air Force early in the war.

In 1945 the family moved from Edmonton to Vancouver where the children eventually all married and settled. Bruce and his wife and daughter went to Los Angeles where they now reside, Leonard and his wife and two sons are in Toronto, Barbara and her husband and two sons live in Vancouver, as do Victor and his wife and family. Jim and Kathleen and their families live on Vancouver Island. Our father passed away just after he retired in 1956, and our mother went in 1965.

THEOBALD BRUNELLE

by Michael Emes

Theobald Brunelle (Tobin) was an interesting Character who lived in and around Duvernay and Brosseau, coming and going whenever he was inclined to move along. He was an itinerant blacksmith whose early life and antecedents cannot be ascertained. As early as 1906 he was established as a smithy in Duvernay, south of the Riverview Hotel built by Matthias Lambert. At that time there was a lot of work for a blacksmith-shoeing horses, sharpening plow shares for the settlers breaking the virgin soil on their homesteads, repairing the implements etc.

Mr. Gaston Bachelet and Mr. Tobin Brunelle (1938).

After a few years in Duvernay Tobin left, again, roaming through Alberta. In 1922, when Delphis Bienvenue left Brosseau, Tobin came back to take over the blacksmith shop at the foot of the hill. When the highway was rerouted, after the bridge was built, in 1930, he had the shop moved to the north corner of SW¼ 35-55-12-W4th, next to Charles F. Callahan's store. There he continued to exercise his trade until spring 1938 when he sold his equipment to Lud Blaskin. That summer he spent with the Emes family at Pinehurst Lake, in Northern Alberta.

When Tobin left the Brosseau district, this time, he worked in different localities, being seen in Turner Valley, Alberta and in Vancouver, B.C.

Finally Tobin returned to Edmonton, where he died in St. Joseph's hospital (date is not remembered.)

Being a bachelor, Tobin was to visit many homes, probably for meals better than he could prepare for himself, or, for an occasional "nip". Hours were spent at Gaston Bachelet's or Joe Brosseau's where he was like one of the family. Before young Joe got his driver's license, Tobin was often in charge of the International truck taking the children to Lac Sante, to ball games or to picnics.

Many, many people of the older generation remember old Tobin very well — his "pipe" and his style of dress. He was always attired in breeches and high-top laced leather boots. Some of his knives he made in his shop are still in existence even today!

MR. F.X. BOILEAU

by Lucile A. Boileau

Mr. F.X. Boileau was born in Saint Genevieve, Quebec in 1849. while teaching in New Carlisle Baie Des Chaleur, he married Priscille Lavasseur. After 15 years of married life his wife passed away leaving him with eight children to care for. Eleven years later he married Flora Fanning and they had two more children.

There was lot of advertising in the papers of the opportunities in western Canada. So in 1905 Mr. and Mrs. Boileau decided to come west and made their way to South Bend North West Territory (Duvernay as it is called today), via the Canadian National Railway that had just opened a passenger service to Vegreville.

He was on the committee which was appointed to find a new name for the town, after the province of Alberta was formed. He suggested Duvernay in honor of an old friend Ludger Duvernay who was a co-founder of the Saint John the Baptiste Society in Quebec.

After lodging his family in Mathias Theroux's boarding house he went in search of land to take as homestead lease. He filed on the West Half of Section 8-56-12 West of 4th. He built a house and moved his family there for a few years. It was a beautiful place on the west shore of Lake Sante, nevertheless it was no place for a man with his education. At the request of the settlers he was asked to open an information center in Duvernay to assist the new settlers who were flocking into the country at that time. He was very active in the community affairs. He was one of the first to suggest and help the forming of the Duvernay Creamery Co-op along with Eugene Ouellette, Desrosier and Mathias Theroux. Mr. Boileau was a public Attorney and spent lot of time helping the people of the area. He also was the first teacher in Duvernay.

In 1912 he decided to move to Edmonton where his family could get better schooling. He worked for the Union newspaper as an editor till his retirement in 1922. Mr. & Mrs. Boileau were two of the first parishiner of St. Francis Xavier Roman Catholic Church in Edmonton. He was an active supporter of Wilfred Laurier whom he new personally. In 1922 Mr. & Mrs. Boileau moved to Morinville where they retired among their many friends.

MR. & MRS. JOHN BERESKA SR.

by Mary Kupchanko

Mr. John Bereska was born May 20, 1885 to Mike & Domka Bereska (nee Todoschuk) at Luzanea Chernovtsi in the Ukraine.

John Bereska (21) taken in 1906 in the Austrian Army.

He went to school for about six years and then helped at home. At the age of twenty-one he went to the army for three years. Came to Canada in June 1910 to the Ispas area and worked where ever jobs were available. During the winter he stayed at his cousins "Mr. & Mrs. Wasyl Zademersky".

In 1913, John filed on a homestead at Lac Canard, south of St. Paul. This was a quarter of bush with buildings. He brushed and broke about two acres the first year and cut logs for a house. The next two years he broke more land and built a house and granary. This was done during the summer months when no jobs were available.

In December of 1915, as John was making his official move from Mr. Zademersky's to his homestead, the stopped in to Mr. & Mrs. Wasyl Popowich's place to rest and feed the horses, which he borrowed from Mr. Zademersky. There John met his bride to be "Mary Popo-

wich" for the first time. Just before Christmas John came back to propose, with the help of a good friend, Mr. Wasyl Zawahesky.

Mary had only seen John once and felt she wasn't ready to marry yet. The courtship continued for only a few more occasions, because transportation for John at that time was walking and it was a long way. Then, November 19, 1916 John Bereska and Mary Popowich got married in Shepenitz Church. Maid of Honour was Mrs. Ivy Zawahesky (brides sister) and Bestman was Mr. Wasyl Zademersky (grooms cousins husband).

When they got married all they had was a bred heifer and about six acres of broken land, which was seeded by hand. Each year more and more land was broken, then finally they had enough money to buy horses and a walking plow, then eventually more machinery.

Five of their seven children were born here; Stefania born August 4, 1917, Mike born April 20, 1919 (died from scarlet fever March 1920), John Jr. born January 2, 1921, Jean born February 21, 1923 and Anne born October 24, 1924. Mrs. George Severn was the midwife when Stefania and Mike were born, and Mrs. Kost Skakun when John, Jean and Anne were born.

After nine years of struggling on this homestead, they decided to get some better land. In 1925, they bought a quarter of land seven miles east of Brosseau, namely SE 2-56-11-W4th, for which they paid $1600., but by the time they paid it out it amounted to $2400. They moved to this place March 1926. At this time they had five horses, ten head of cattle, walking plough, disc, seed drill and binder. There was a log granary and a little house on this place with dirt roofs and 30 acres of cultivation. They made windows in the granary and lived in it and used the little house for horses in winter. Here two more children were born; Metro, born October 18, 1926 and Marie, born November 29, 1930. Mrs. Andre Skakun was the midwife for these two children. She lived just 1½ miles south, across the North Saskatchewan River.

1928 — John Bereska's team and democrat. Front; John Bereska and Wasyl Popowich. Back; Mary Bereska and Rita Popowich.

Every year more land was cleared and plowed. John cut logs and hauled them across the river to Mr. Dmytro Kupchenko's saw mill operated by a steamer. This lumber was used for a new house and barn roof and doors as well as a number of granary roofs. All of their primary buildings were constructed of hewed trees, and were referred to as log built, which meant stacking logs and notching the corners to hold the logs from rolling one way or the other, as well as to place them as even as possible, not leaving too large a space between logs as this would later have to be plastered (filled with a mud and fine straw or hay mixture). All the logs had to be "pegged" meaning that about every five or six feet a hole would be bored down to take in the thickness of at least two logs and a wooden peg of proper size (sapling peg) would be hammered through to bind the logs together and prevent the walls from bulging later on. After plastering the walls with the mud and fine straw mixture, this had to dry. Another mixture of sand and mud was spread on top of the mud and straw mixture to make the wall nice and smooth. When the sand and mud mixture was dry, painting with a lime mixture was the finishing touch which was called "white washing".

In 1932, a big five room, two storey house was ready, so the family moved in for the winter. The little house was used in summer only. In those days summer houses were very common, to keep the wood cook stove heat, as well as flies and mosquitos away from the sleeping area.

John worked very hard, he wasn't happy unless he was working. Members of the family still remember his sawing wood by hand in the moonlight when the cold winter days were very short and the nights long. Mary always helping out as much as she could. Her days were filled with helping out in the field, planting a big garden, and supplying many Lafond and St. Paul families with cucumbers and cabbage. Also, milking cows, churning butter, baking bread, making soap and sewing all the clothes for the whole family. Her winter days were spent carding and spinning wool which she either knit into clothing or made warm heavy quilts. The nights would get so cold that water would freeze in a pail in the house till morning. The heavy wool quilts would keep the family nice and warm.

In May 1931, the whole family got a nice surprise when Mr. Nick Bereska, youngest member of John's family, who came unexpected from the old country. Nick was born July 12, 1907. Didn't get the opportunity of attending school because of World War I. Schools weren't opened during that time. After the war at the age of twelve, he had to help his mother who was alone, because his father died in 1915.

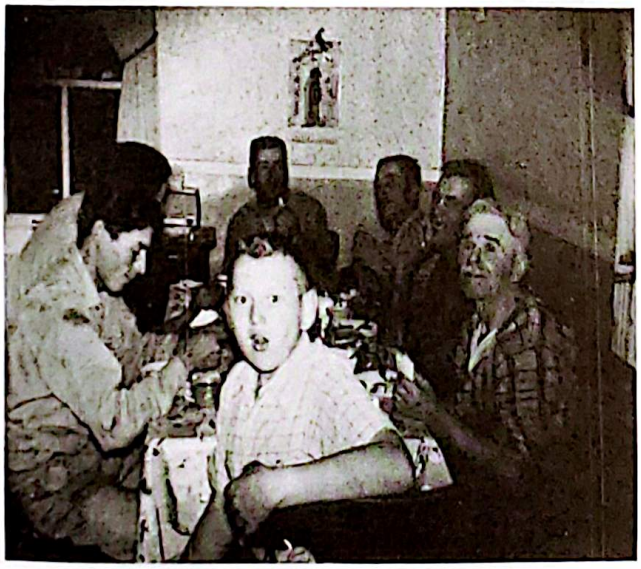
In 1930, Nick was very eager to go to Canada, though his mother tried hard to stop him. He said he would just go for two years and come back. On February 12, 1930 he took a ship "Awsoni" at Sherbrooke, France. Came to Halifax on February 22. Took a train to Montreal. While waiting at the station to take an afternoon train to Winnipeg, he surprisingly bumped into a good friend, Mr. Kornel Foychuk who immigrated from the Ukraine in 1926 and was working in Montreal.

Kornel asked Nick where he was going. Nick said he had a passport to Winnipeg, but he sure would have liked to get to Toronto instead, where his two brother-in-laws, Mr. John Hruska and Mr. John Lakusta were working.

The John Bereska family taken in 1952. Back row (L-R), Bill & Stefania Chrapko, John & Mona Bereska, Jean & Alex Logozar, Marie & Metro Kupchenko; Sitting: Metro & Elsie Bereska, Mary & John Bereska, Ann & Steve Tymko.

Aug. 1979 — Nick Bereska visiting his home land in the Ukraine. Picture taken in the same yard where John & Nick Bereska were born & lived till they came to Canada, (new house in background). L-R: Mrs. Odoklya Eliuk, Nick Hruska, Mrs. Mary Kosteschuk, Nick Bereska, Walter Kosteschuk, Mrs. Lezia Hruska.

May 1960: Nick Bereska visiting his homeland in the Ukraine for the first time since he came to the Brosseau area in 1931. Back row: L-R: Oresia Shelepnisky (Nick's great niece) Mrs. Odokiya Eluik (niece), Nick Bereska, 52 yrs. old, Mrs. Stefania Shelepniski (niece). Front: centre; Mrs. Domka Hruska (Nick)s sister) & her two sons Mike & Bill & little grandson Johnny.



John J. Bereska's (far back) having supper 1957. Mr. John Bereska at front right, 72 years old kept up with all the young crew hauling bundles (240 hours) with rack and team. Twelve year old Johnny V. Bereska enjoyed every bit of it too!

Nick stayed a few days at Mr. Foychuks' place. Then took the train to Toronto, got a job at a wrecking shop where his brother-in-law John Lakusta worked. All the wrecked steel was shipped to Germany for ammunition. His other brother-in-law John Hruska drove a truck. John Lakusta and John Hruska just worked for a few years to earn some money and went back to their families in the Ukraine. Nick worked here for eleven months then took a train to Two Hills, Alberta. When he got off the train he went to a small confectionery store & barber shop and asked if anyone knew John Bereska (his brother) and where he lived. Mr. Alex Kabage "God Bless Him" was there and said, "Sure I know him and where he lives, come with me and I'll take you to his place". Nick was very happy about this. Mr. Kabage took him as far as Mr. Mike Logozars. From there they could see Johns' place, just two miles east of there, so Nick walked the rest of the way. This is the nice surprise John Bereska and his family got in May 1931, because Nick was only three years old when John came to Canada.

These were the depression years, so getting a job wasn't easy. Nick stayed at Johns' place for awhile, supported himself by working where ever jobs were avilable in the surrounding area, namely, Mr. Mafty Sherstanko, Mr. Alex Taschuk, Mr. John Orlecki and Mr. John Ruptashs' place. Wages per month ranged from $15. to $45. This meant going back to the Ukraine in two years was out of the question.

December 1939 to May 1940, Nick worked at Macantyre Coal Mine in Drumheller till he was narrowly missed by a cave-in which scared everyone working there. Next day he went to New Westminister, B.C. with his cousin Nick Bereska and got a job at a logging camp. Worked there for almost seven years and at Queen Charlotte Island for 3 months. West to Toronto July 1947, started to work at a Massey Harris Combine Assembly Line July 22, 1947 and worked at this same job till he retired in 1971. Retirement, with all his family so far away didn't agree with Nick, so in March 1974 he moved back to Alberta to be close to his family. He stayed at Mr. & Mrs. Alex Logozars' for awhile and helped out as much as he could and is presently living with his nephew, Mr. John Jr. Bereska at Vegreville.

In 1960, Mr. Nick Bereska visited his home land in the Ukraine for the first time, he went on April 10 and came back June 28. On July 29, 1979 he went to visit his home land again, he came back on September 20, 1979. So this concludes the history of Mr. Nick Bereska, now back to "John".

In 1934, John bought another two quarters of land; NE 2-56-11-W4th and a C.P.R. NW 1-56-11-W4th. This meant more hard work brushing and breaking. The whole family pitched in.

Eventually a tractor was purchased, then a truck, which meant no more twenty-two mile trips to St. Paul with horses.

In 1952, they bought a house in St. Paul and moved in March, leaving his youngest son Metro on the farm. John was very restless with nothing much to do in town so he did odd carpentry work, and Mary babysat, as long as they could.

John Jr. still talks about how the fall of 1956, hired help was hard to get during threshing. He went to St. Paul for repairs, but went to visit his dad and mom first, he happened to mention that he had to step into the Saddle Lake Reserve to get some men to help thresh next day. His dad told him when he's finished his work in town to stop

in and he'll go and help out threshing. John Jr. wouldn't hear of that, so he didn't stop in for his dad, who was seventy-two years old at the time. The next morning as John Jr. was getting things lined up to start threshing, his dad comes walking. He caught a ride with the mailman from St. Paul to Brosseau and walked four miles to John Jr.s' place, still quite mad because he didn't stop in for him as he had asked him to. That fall John hauled bundles with a rack and team till harvest was finished, which was 240 hours.

John first got sick in 1960, due to the hardening of the arteries. He had several more attacks during the next four years. he died on August 6, 1964 after suffering a stroke. He was buried at the Greek Orthodox Cemetery at Brosseau. Life for Mary was very lonely, with all the children living far away. She married John Stelmaschuk from Wakaw, Saskatchewan in 1967. In September 1971 they moved to the Homestead Senior Citizens Home in Vegreville. Mr. Stelmaschuk first got sick in 1969 due to a heart condition. He died in September 1978.

Mary still resides at the Homestead Senior Citizens Home, not in very good health, but still tries to help in the kitchen when ever she can.

John Bereskas' father "Mike" was born 1856, died 1915. Mikes' brother Mr. Harry Bereska came to the Ispas district in 1909 with his wife and five children; Annie "Mrs. Mike Berezan", Bill "who married Mary Melnechuk then Zenovia Eluik", Martha "Mrs. Wasyl Zademersky", Domka "Mrs. Musiuk", John "who married Alice Sakaluk" Mikes' other two brothers John and Peter and two sisters Pachina and Waselena stayed in the Ukraine.

Johns' mother "Domka" was born 1856, and died in 1939. Domka had one brother "George Todoschuk" and one sister "Mrs. Pachina Kizema".

The following are Mr. John Bereskas' three brothers and four sisters, from the oldest to the youngest:

BILL — born 1882, came to Canada bout 1908, worked in the Ispas and Hairy Hill area till he got sick. Died in May 1941.

MARY — "Mrs. Mike Olynyk" born 1883, died 1920. Had one girl Odokiya "Mrs. Dizo Eliuk", and one boy Nick who came to Canada in 1928, presently living in Smoky Lake.

ANNIE — "Mrs. John Lakusta", born 1889, died 1974. Had two girls, Stefania "Mrs. Kornel Shelepnitski" and Mary "Mrs. Kornel Orlecki".

MARTHA — born 1893, married a Russian Army Officer during the 1914-1918 war. The family never saw or heard from her since.

DOMKA — "Mrs. John Hruska" born 1897, died 1972. Had three boys; Mike, Bill and Kornel. Kornel died in World War II.

METRO — married Ruth Esayenko, born 1902, died 1958. He had one girl, Mary "Mrs. Harry Petrunik".

NICK — born July 12, 1907, he came to Canada in 1930.

This concludes Mr. & Mrs. John Bereskas' history and that of his parents, brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts, nieces and nephews.

MR. & MRS. JOHN JR. BERESKA

by Mary Kupchanko

John was born January 2, 1921. Attended school at Mamaestie then helped his dad on the farm. In spring of 1941 John met Miss Mona Hyshka, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. John Hyshka (nee Eva Holowaychuk) of Glendon at National Hall at a dance. They got married November 23, 1941. They farmed with Johns' dad for one year, while building a house on their own quarter NE-2-56-11.

In fall of 1942 they moved to their one room house and farm. In fall of 1943 they rented Mr. Alex Taschuks land NE-32-55-11 and moved there. Two years later they rented another quarter SE-5-56-11 from Mr. Taschuk. In 1950 they bought NW-33-55-11 from Mr. Trifon Arychuk, then eventually they bought the two quarters from Mr. Alex Taschuk.

Besides farming John worked at the Two Hills Chemical Plant in 1957 and 1958. He also worked for Prairie Farm Assistance from 1965 to 1972 during the winter months. Mr. Hector Coutu was his good boss then.

They sold their land in 1973 to Gordon Mack from Calgary and moved to Vegreville in spring of 1974. John

John J. Bereska, threshing machine operator & spike pitcher in 1966.

1967 Newly Weds: Mr. & Mrs. Johnny V. Bereska (nee Mary Kuchma).

Celebrating 25 yrs. of marriage are Mr. & Mrs. John J. Bereska (nee Mona Hyshka) with son Johnny V.

works for Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance and Mona works at the Homesteader Inn.

They have one son Johnny Victor, born May 18, 1945 married Miss Mary Kuchma from Legal on June 10, 1967. They have two boys; Darren and Steven and live in Grande Prairie. Johnny is a Supervisor of Administrative Services for Alberta Power Ltd.

MR. AND MRS. METRO BERESKA

by Mary Kupchanko

Metro was born October 18, 1926. Attended Mamaestie and Chesterville School, then helped his dad on the farm. Met Miss Elsie Kostyniuk, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Kostyniuk (nee Barbara Olynuk) of Lac Bellevue at National Hall dance in 1948. They got married July 20, 1950.

Farmed with Metro's parents till his dad and mom moved to St. Paul in 1952. Besides farming SE 2-56-11 and NW 1-56-11, Metro also worked at the Two Hills Chemical Plant in 1956 and 1957. Two of their three children were born here. Clarence, born June 11, 1951 works for Alberta Home Mortgage in Edmonton. Veronica, born March 26, 1956 works for the City Police in the personnel office.

In the fall of 1957, Metro and Elsie sold their land to Mr. Alex Logozar and moved to Daysland in November. They bought a school bus, so Metro bussed the children to school and did carpentry work.

Here Tammy was born on January 25, 1970. In June 1970 they moved to Edmonton. Metro worked for L & P Construction for awhile and presently works for Qualico Developments. Elsie works at the Co-op Bakery. Tammy goes to school and is in grade seven now.

MR. & MRS. BILL CHRAPKO
(nee Stefanie Bereska)

by Mary Kupchanko

Stefania was born on August 14, 1917. Attended Mamaestie School. Mr. Bill Chrapko, son of Mr. & Mrs. John Chrapko (nee Mary Jacura) attended school at Luzan. They got married February 14, 1935. Farmed seven miles N.E. of Musidora on NE-27-55-11. Four of their five girls were born here; Lillian, Rosie, Vivian and June.

Lillian, born March 8, 1936; married Mr. Gaston Desaulniers of Lafond on October 26, 1954. They have three girls; Linda, Lauraine and Lesley. They live in Edmonton.

Rosie, born August 21, 1938; married Mr. Pierre Joly of St. Paul on July 16, 1957. They have one boy Laurier and two girls Lorianne and Derielle. They live in St. Albert.

Vivian, born June 4, 1940; died September 15, 1940. Buried at the Greek Orthodox Cemetery at Luzan.

June, born October 31, 1941; married Mr. George Laing of St. Vincent on June 4, 1959. They have three girls; Joanne, Sheryl, Monique and two boys; Terrance and Mark. They live in St. Paul.

In December 1942, they sold this place to Mr. Nick Snihur (Bills' step brother) and bought a farm one and a half miles north west of Foisy and moved in February of 1943. They had a hard time getting there, due to the drifted roads.

Here their last girl was born. Angele, born July 8, 1943; married Mr. Philip Hebert of St. Vincent on August

Mr. & Mrs. Bill Chrapko's four girls. From left to right; June, Lillian, Rosalie & Angele on their family farm by Foisy in 1953.

Feb. 14, 1960. Mr. & Mrs. Bill Chrapko (nee Stefania Bereska) — 25th anniversary. Sitting Mrs. Mary Snihur, Mrs. Mary Bereska. Standing: Mrs. Bill Boychuk, Mrs. Jean Ternovoy, Mrs. John Ewasuik, John Ewasuik. Mike Ternovoy, John Bereska, Bill Boychuk, Bill Snihur.

12, 1961. They have one girl Lianne and two boys Mark and Jason. They live in St. Albert.

While farming here, Bill also did construction work on Highway 36 for two years and worked at the Two Hills chemical Plant for nine years. Stefania worked at Larrys' Produce for almost two years. In 1962 they sold their farm to Mr. Pete Chrapko and moved to Edmonton.

Bill worked for MacNamara Construction the first two years then for the City till 1978 when he retired. Stefania babysat besides making Easter Eggs and still is working hard at it now.

MR. AND MRS. STEVE TYMKO
(nee Anne Bereska)

by Mary Kupchanko

Anne met Steve Tymko in 1940. He came from Lac Bellevue with his mother, Rosalia Tymko; his older sister Jean, now Mrs. John Bodnar, and a younger sister Margaret, now Mrs. Alex Popowich. They farmed the quarter just east of Lac Sante or a better way to describe it, the quarter just north of Alex Logozars'.

Steve's dad, Mr. Steve Tymko Sr. came to Canada in 1908 from Brodiw, Galicia at the age of 18, leaving his parents and a sister behind. In 1909, his father Saphat Tymko decided to follow his only son to Canada, with the hopes that some day he'll bring the rest of the family to Canada. On the same ship Saphat got acquainted with a young girl by the name of Rosalia Palsat, who also came from Brodiw, Galicia.

Steve Sr. and his father Saphat bought a farm around Innisfree, farmed there for a year, then Steve Sr. married Rosalia Palsat. A few years later Steve Sr. sold the farm at Innisfree and bought a quarter at Lac Bellevue, Alberta.

When their children became of school age and there still was no school at Lac Bellevue, they moved to Chesterville district to be near a school. This is where Steve Jr. was born. After a school was built at Lac Bellevue they moved back to their farm in Lac Bellevue.

There also was no church where they lived and since they were quite religious people they would hitch their horses up to the democrat early Sunday morning and go all the way to Mamaestie Church for a 9:00 o'clock mass. Steve Sr. had a vey nice voice and my mother (Mrs. Mary Bereska) often talked about them coming to church, and when he'd join in the singing it just sounded beautiful.

Things went quite favourably, so he bought the quarter just north across from Lac Bellevue school, and later another quarter with buildings from John Elkow, just to the east. This is where they moved and settled down.

The early 1930's were tough for the farmers and as the depression deepened, every one found it more and more difficult, and to make things worse, in 1935 they were completely halled out.

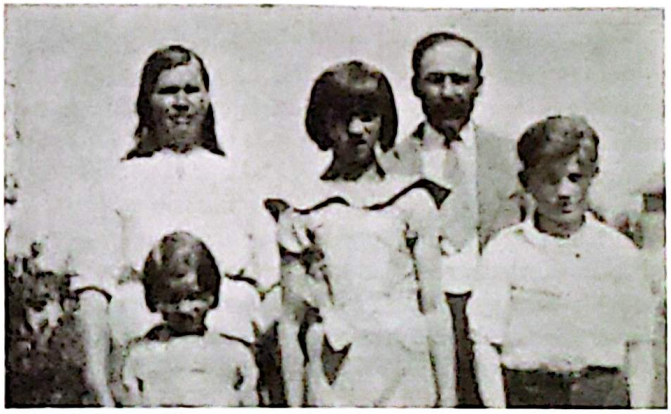
With five children still at home, times were really hard. Then in 1936 Steve Sr. died of a heart attack. The family continued living there and in 1940 moved to Brosseau.

Steve had six other sisters that were already married. They are Mrs. George (Annie) Taschuk, Mrs. Paul (Nellie) Wannechko, Mrs. Paul (Mary) Michalchuk, Mrs. Walter (Clara) Klakowich, Mrs. Harry (Olga) Halversen and Mrs. Raoul (Sophie) Chamberland.

Anne went to Mamaestie School and in her earlier years recalls going to school with a horse and a two-wheel cart in the summer and when she got older she walked the three miles. In winter they went to school with a horse and cutter.

In the summer they had school festivals, and played soft ball against Duvernay and Champlain School. We

Mr. & Mrs. Steve Tymko with their young family, Larry, Judy, & Brian, 1957.



1934: Mrs. & Mrs. Steve Tymko (Rosalia) and children. L-R, front, Margaret (Mrs. Alex Popowich) Jean (Mrs. John Bodnar) & Steve Jr.

Master Brian Tymko, bottle feeding an orphan lamb at John Bereska's farm, 1970.

also had Christmas concerts every year, which was something we all looked forward to. It wasn't only for the bag of goodies and a little gift we got from Santa, but the entertainment was really good. The children all looked so nice in their brand new outfits.

People in those days didn't only attend their own childrens concerts, but they also went to see other school concerts such as Luzan, Chesterville and Beela School.

Steve used to love playing the violin, then somehow he found out that Tommy Gregoraschuk played the guitar, and the two decided to play at dances at Foisy Hall. After a while a three piece orchestra was formed, which consisted of Steve on the violin, Metro Turnavoy on the accordian and Ernest Skakun on the banjo. They each played for $2.00 a night, and that was till 3:00 A.M. Of course by this time everybody was really in the mood, so they'd throw another quarter or so into his violin so they'd play for one more hour. Later they raised their price to $3.00, and then they thought they were really in the chips. They played at weddings and dances around Foisy, Brosseau and Lafond.

In those days for entertainment we went to picnics at various places, and played soft ball on the south side of Lac Sante on Alex Taschuks farm. Later made a ball diamond north of John Bereska's farm, which they called Mid-way. We also went to dances at Foisy Hall, Duvernay Hall and National Hall, and during the summer held dances on a platform in Alex Logozars yard. We had young folks coming from Foisy, Luzan, and even Lac Bellevue. They either came on horse backs, horse and buggy or with bikes as there weren't too many who owned cars in those days.

Steve and Anne got married in January of 1944 and in the fall rented a quarter by the Beauvallon Ferry from Fred Popowich. In the fall of 1946, Steve bought a farm 8 miles south of St. Paul and one mile west of the Myrnam highway, from Mike Makowicki for $2000.00. After harvest of 1947 he decided to go to work for the winter, at the St. Paul Foundry. He thought he was doing quite well at $100.00 a month, so he rented his farm out and continued working at the foundry. In 1949 he went to work for Plains Western Gas Co. and has been with them till this day.

In 1956, Steve and Anne were transferred to Drumheller, Alta. Then in 1965 the company transferred them again to Ft. St. John, B.C., and in 1969 they were transferred again, this time to Edmonton, where they are still living at present.

They have three children, 2 boys and a girl. Larry the oldest, married Vicki Osteyard of Dolum, Alberta in 1966. They have two children, Leah eleven years old and Steven 6 years old. They live in Calgary. Larry is manager of advertising with Alberta Trunk Line.

Judy the second child, married Vern Smith of Ft. St. John, B.C. in 1969. They also have two children, Jason 7 years old and Krystl-Anne 5 years old. They live in Courtney, B.C. Vern is manager of Overwaitea Store in Duncan, B.C.

Brian, the youngest is still a bachelor, and is living in Edmonton. Brian is service man for duplicating mahines for A.B. Dick Company.

MR. & MRS. WASYL POPOWICH

by Mary Kupchanko

Mr. Wasyl Popowich was born in 1863 to Mr. & Mrs. Alex Popowich (nee Wasylena Vizniuk) at Mamayutsi Chernovtsi in the Ukraine.

Mr. and Mrs. Nick Holowaychuk (Alexandra) Ispas. Nick lived 115 years, and Alexandra lived 109 years. They are Mrs. John Bereska's and Mrs. Bill Popowich's grandparents.

Miss Rayifta Eluik was born 1868 to Mr. & Mrs. Mike Eliuk (nee Helen Demchuk) also at Mamayutsi Chernovtsi. Wasyl and Rita got married about 1892. All their seven children were born in the Ukraine and attended Mamayutsi School for six years each except Bill, the youngest member of the family went for only eight months till they came to Canada. The grade one and two children went to school from 1 o'clock till 4 o'clock and the grade three to six children attended school from 8 to 12 o'clock. School was about three blocks away.

Mr. Wasyl Popowich decided to come to Canada in Spring of 1910, hoping to make a better life for his wife and children whom he left behind. He took a homestead at Vilna, built a little house, broke some land and planted a garden, but much to his surprise a frost killed the garden black, during summer.

He thought this is no place to live. He went to Mr. Mafty Sherstankos' place, a friend of his who came to

Canada long before, and told him that his garden froze so he's got to move from there. Mr. Sherstanko told him to get land where there are hills because crops don't freeze on hills, only on low lying areas. So in 1911 Mr. Popowich took a homestead five miles south of Lafond, namely NE-6-56-10 and SE-6-56-10, with lots of hills. During 1911 and 1912 he built a granary and lived in it and broke twenty acres of land.

January 1913, Mr. Popowich went back to the Ukraine to make arrangements and took the whole family to Canada. They took a train to Bremen Germany, April 8, 1913. There they took a ship to Halifax, then by train to Vegreville. Mr. John Pundick Sr. awaited them at the station on May 5, 1913. They nighted over at Mr. Choban's, next day May 6, the family of nine arrived to their homestead and started their new life in a granary. By fall they built a new house, the whole family helped out.

They hired Mr. Tommy Clark to disc and harrow. The seeding was done by hand till they eventually bought machinery. Year after year they broke more land and bought horses and cattle. Mrs. Popowich always planted a big garden and sold vegetables to Lafond and St. Paul residents.

They had a tragedy about 1920 when their house and all their belongings burnt to the ground. They had to live in a granary again till they built another house. Mr. Popowich died December 4th, 1938 due to a heart condition. Mrs. Popowich died May 5, 1943, both at the age of seventy-five.

The following is a short history of
Mr. & Mrs. Wasyl Popowich's
Seven Children

6 daughters of Mr. & Mrs. Wasyl Popowich by married names: L-R — Mrs. Annie Wertypora, Mrs. Irene Taschuk, Mrs. Veronia Zawalusky, Mrs. Mary Bereska, Mrs. Helen Popowich, Miss Ruth Popowich.

1. **Miss Annie Popowich,** born 1893, came to Canada with her parents May 6, 1913. Married Mr. Nick Wertypora July 1914. Farmed just east of the Beauvallon Ferry, then south of Lafond (Mr. Wasyl Popowichs' place). Later they moved to St. Paul and had a livery stable and a confectionery store, then a rooming house.

1925 on Main St. St. Paul — Bill Popowich on "Dan". The RCMP wanted to buy Dan at that time.

Mr. & Mrs. Wertypora had four girls and three boys. **Jean,** married Mr. Andrew Petriuk, living in Vernon, B.C. They had one boy Ernest. **Mary,** married Mr. Alex Harasym. They had three boys and four girls; Olga, Johnny, Norman, Noreen, Fern, Gloria and William. Mr. Harasym died January 4, 1956. Mrs. Harasym married Mr. Bill Skakun in 1958. They live in St. Paul. **Victoria,** maried Mr. Bill Basaraba, living in St. Paul. They had two boys and three girls; Donald, Raymond, Adeline, Norine and Brenda. **Mr. Toni Wertypora,** married Miss Mildred Bodnar, then Miss Irene Campbell living in Burnaby, B.C. They have one boy Patrick. **Mr. Alex Wertypora** died very young. **Mr. Steve Wertypora,** married Miss Annie Thoir, living in St. Paul. They had four girls and three boys; Shirley, Gary, Victoria, Beverly, Kenneth, Trefon and Lorna. **Annie,** married Mr. Mike Diachuk, living in Vegreville. They had one boy, Gordon.

2. **Miss Irene Popowich,** born 1894. Came to Canada with her parents May 6, 1913. Married Mr. Alex Taschuk July 1914. Farmed four miles east of Brosseau, NE-32-55-11. Moved to Edmonton, November 1943. Mr. Taschuk died January 11, 1976. Mr. & Mrs. Taschuk had two girls. **Stefania,** married Mr. Trifon Arychuk, living in Two Hills. They had three boys and two girls; Olga, Mable, Walter, Kenneth, and Gerald. **Ruth,** married Mr. John Kushniruk, living in Edmonton. They had six boys and two girls; Terry, Ronnie, Iris, Gloria, Larry, Dwayne, Marshal and Randy.

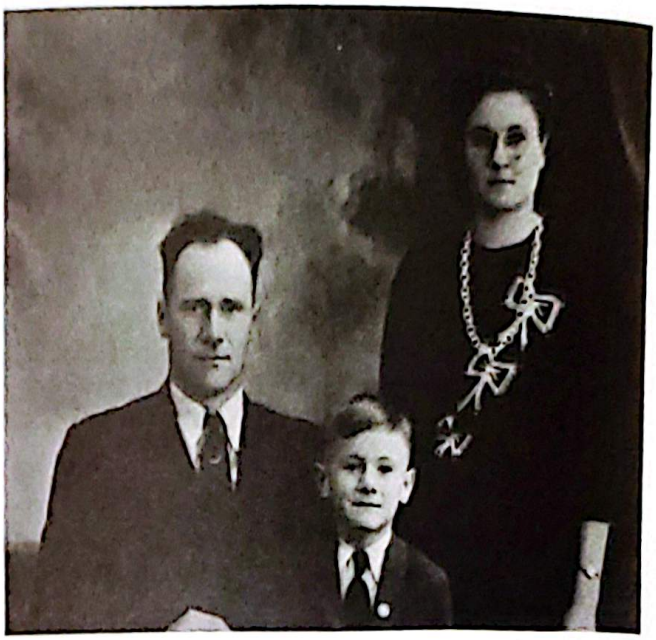
3. **Miss Veronia Popowich,** born 1896. Came to Canada with her parents May 6, 1913. Married Mr. Wasyl Zawalusky August 3, 1915. Farmed twelve miles north of Beauvallon, just north of the ferry. In 1945, they sold their land to Mr. Baran and retired in 1960. They moved to Vegreville February 1961. Mrs. Zawalusky died March 21, 1971 and Mr. Zawalusky died December 17, 1977. Mr. & Mrs. Zawalusky had five girls and four boys.

Jean, married Mr. Mike Arychuk, October 22, 1936 living in Vegreville. They had two boys. **Leonard,** married

Miss Myran Andrichuk May 2, 1964 living in Vancouver, B.C. They had one boy and two girls. Billy died at the age of four, Nadine and Natalie. **David** married Miss Marion Kalynchuk October 22, 1965 living in Vegreville. They have one boy, Michael and one girl Rhonda.

Ruth, married Mr. Bill Rudkowski November 3, 1938. They had one boy, Victor who married Miss Dorthy Gou on June 30, 1966, living in Sherwood Park. They have two girls, Gill and Janice. Mr. Bill Rudkowski died Dec. 30, 1975.

Mr. Bill Zawalusky, married Miss Helen Kurelik, June 16, 1944 living in St. Paul. They had one boy and three girls. **Vivian,** married Mr. David Gillespie on August 14, 1970 living in Calgary. They had one girl Valerie and one boy Gregory. **Ruby**, died very young. **Peggy** is going to school in grade twelve. **Richard** is going to school in grade nine.



Mr. & Mrs. Bill Rudkowski (nee Ruth Zawalusky) with son Victor.

1942. L-R — Mrs. Bill Rudkowski, (nee Ruth Zawalusky), Victoria & Olga Zawalusky, & little Victor Rudkowski.

Olga, married Mr. Bill Borchuk July 23, 1944 living in St. Paul. They had three boys and two girls. **Patricia,** married Mr. Wayne Berlinguette, August 9, 1969 living in Bonnyville. They had one girl Lesley. **Ronnie** works in Edmonton. **Connie** works in St. Paul. **Carry,** married Miss Judy Lafrance July 6, 1974 living in Edmonton. They have one boy Trevor. **Lynn** the youngest is in grade eleven.

Victoria, married Mr. Bill Tupechka August 20, 1949 living in Fort McMurray. They had two boys. **Brian,** married Miss Jo Wrzesian October 16, 1971, living in Edmonton. They have two boys; Robert and Gregory. **Barry,** married Miss Kathy Ursialuk July 1, 1972 living in Ft. McMurray. They had two girls; Trudy and Nicole.

Mr. & Mrs. Wasyl Zawalusky had four more children that died very young, Mary, Metro, Johnny and Orest.

4. **Miss Mary Popowich,** born October 30, 1898. Came to Canada with her parents May 6, 1913. Worked for Mr. & Mrs. Pete Taschuk for about two months in 1913 and in 1914 she worked for Mr. & Mrs. Mafty Sherstanko. Married Mr. John Bereska November 19, 1916. The rest of her history is included in Mr. John Bereskas' story.

5. **Miss Helen Popowich,** born July 12, 1900. Came to Canada with her parents May 6, 1913. Worked for Mr. & Mrs. Harry Ewasuik in 1914. Married Mr. Oleksa Popowich 1919. Farmed north east of Beauvallon Ferry. Mr. Popowich died June 6, 1942. Mrs. Popowich moved to Edmonton in 1947 and is still living there in good health.

Mr. & Mrs. Oleksa Popowich had two girls and two boys; Ivy, Alex, Jean and Billy.

Ivy, married Mr. Joe Sosnowski May 29, 1938. They had one girl and three boys. **Eddie,** married Miss Florence Zalaski. they had four children, Shauna, Dean, Wayne and Sherry. **Evelyn,** married Mr. Raymond Yacey. They had three children; Roxanne, Rhonda and Rodney. **Clifford,** married Miss Kathy Bodnaruik. They have one boy, Mark. **Brian,** married Miss Pauline Ouellette, and they have one girl, Jill. Mr. & Mrs. Joe Sosnowski live in Myrnam.

Mr. Alex Popowich, married Miss Margaret Tymko October 28, 1945 and are living in Edmonton. They had one boy and three girls. **Orest** lived only a few months. **Adele,** married Mr. Scott Macleod in 1970, they are teaching in Duncan, B.C. They have one boy, Walker. **Iris,** married Mr. Taras Diduck, they have one boy, Ryan. Taras is teaching and Iris is nursing. They live in Edmonton. **Evie** the youngest is still at home and is teaching in Edmonton.

Jean, married Mr. Alex Romaniuk in 1946. They had three children. **Clarence,** married Miss Theresa

LaFrance, they have two children Marcel and Denielle. **Joanne,** married Mr. Ernie Guinette and they have one boy, Rine. **Charlene,** the youngest is still at home and going to school. Mr. & Mrs. Alex Romaniuk live in Edmonton.

Mr. Billy Popowich, married Miss Elsie Yarmuch in 1952 and live in Edmonton. They have one boy and three girls. **Wendy,** Mrs. Don Cameron. **Debbie,** married Mr. Dennis Allen. They have one child, Kyley. **Shelly** is still in school and **Trent** the youngest is also in school.

25 anniversary of marriage — Mr. & Mrs. Bill Popowich (nee Mary Hyshka).

Taken in 1965, celebrating 50 yrs. of marriage — Mrs. & Mrs. Wasyl Zawalusky (in front) with their family in background. Far back: Mrs. Vicky Tupechka, Mrs. Olga Borchuk, Mrs. Helen Zawalusky, Bill Z.; Centre: Mrs. Jean Arychuk, Mrs. Ruth Rudkowski; Far right is Mr. & Mrs. Bill Popowich (Veronia Zawalusky's brother & sister-in-law. To the far left are all her sisters, far back: Mrs. Helen Popowich, Mrs. Mary Bereska, Miss Ruth Popowich, Mrs. Annie Wertypora. Centre left: Mrs. Irene Taschuk.

1938 — wedding day: Mr. & Mrs. Joe Sosnowski (nee Ivy Popowich).

6. **Miss Ruth Popowich,** born 1903. Came to Canada with her parents May 6, 1913. Stayed home and helped her parents. After her parents died she lived with Mr. & Mrs. Alex Taschuk (Ruth's sister and brother in-law). Miss Popowich died March 4, 1980.

7. **Mr. Bill Popowich,** born March 9, 1905. Attended school in Mamayutsi in the Ukraine for eight months. Came to Canada with his parents on May 6, 1913, at the age of eight. Walked five miles to Mamaestie School for two months. After Chesterville School was built he went there for four years, then helped his dad on the farm.

Bill married Miss Mary Hyshka, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. John Hyshka (nee Eva Holowaychuk) of Glendon in June 1926.

Farmed with his dad for over a year then bought some land north east of Beauvallon Ferry from Mr. & Mrs. Nick Wertypora. This place was just next to Mr. & Mrs. Oleksa Popowichs' place. In 1946, they sold this land to Mr. & Mrs. Alex Popowich, had an Auction Sale March 20, 1946 and moved to Olds, Alberta where they bought a section of land two miles west of Olds. While farming here they bought an apartment in Calgary. They sold their land in 1959 and moved to Calgary.

Due to Mrs. Popowichs' ill health they sold the apartments in 1970. In August 1976 they bought a house in Kelowna, B.C. and are still living there now. Mr. Bill Popowich always has a nice garden and looks after his disabled wife.

Mr. Wasyl Popowich had four sisters, all in the Ukraine; Annie (Mrs. George Lukeniuk), Mary (Mrs. Alex Lanik), Todocia (Mrs. Gawrelo Cherowluik), Domka (Mrs. Metro Rylo) and one brother, Tanasko who married Miss Rita Yakowich. Mr. Tanasko Popowich came to Canada in 1914 and filed on a homestead northwest of Beauvallon or northeast of Rannock School. His oldest son George came to join him in 1926 and a younger son Hnat a few years later. His wife Rayefta and daugther Annie stayed in the Ukraine.

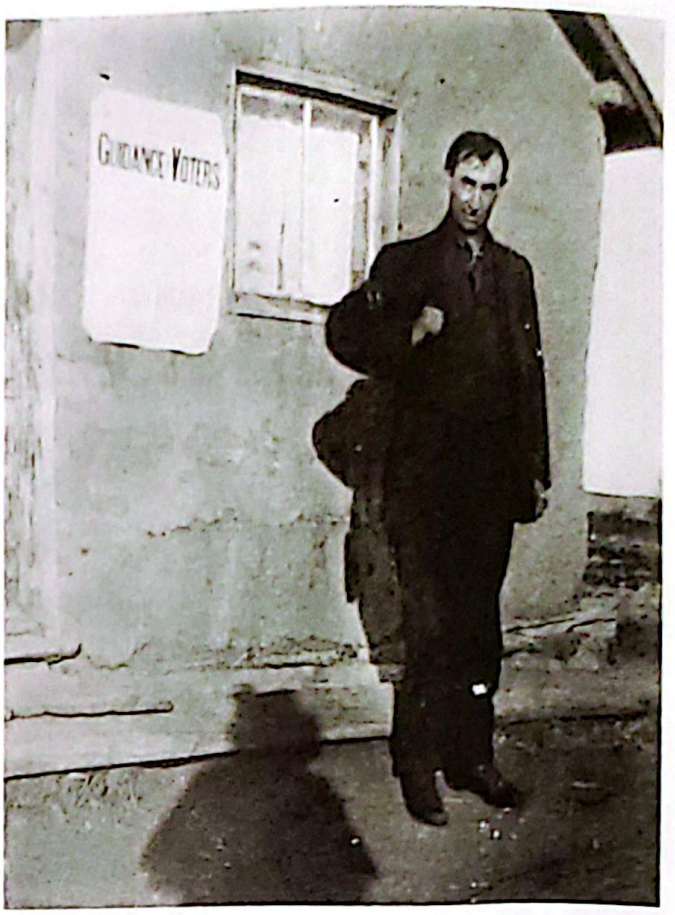
Mrs. Wasly Popowich had one sister (Domka, Mrs. Yakiw Demchuk). Two other sisters Veronia and Annie died very young.

Descendents do not know the people in this picture but this is the way farming was done in pioneering days.

Although we have tried to stick to facts, there are bound to be errors and omissions for which we apologize.

We wish to thank those who have furnished dates and other data.

It is to our hope that a member of our branch of the family will continue this history for the present younger generation and for those yet to come. To those of the younger generation we would say; "Cherish your parents, family and friends while you can. For there will come a day when they will no longer be here."



Gaston Bachelet was involved in politics all his life. Here acting as deputy returning officer in front of Martin Lavallee residence N.E. 34-55-12-W4th, federal election in 1930.

GASTON BACHELET

Gaston Bachelet was born in 1888 and raised at Trois Vevres in an orphanage 13 miles out of Paris, France. At an early age he was working for landlords hoeing mangels, turnips as we know them, for pig feed. The hours of work were from sunrise to sunset year round. It took him two years of wages to have enough money to sail for Canada. He left the port of Le Havre, France on august 10, 1909 and sailed to Southhampton, England. Then he went on to Quebec City, P.Q. and arrived there on August 25. He then travelled by train to Edmonton, and then found work in Beaumont. The wage that fall was $5.00 per month. The winter of 1909-1910, he worked on the railroad west of Edmonton and was stationed at Bickerdike. The summer of 1910, he took up a homestead on S.W. 4-56-12-W4th and built a log shack with a sod roof, and broke enough land for a garden.

The winter 1910-1911, he worked on the railroad, Vegreville south to Camrose, and after that winter he never left the farm. In the summer of 1918, a grass fire came through and burnt all his buildings.

In 1924, on July 22, he married Sylva Ouellette, who lived across the road from him and raised four children. Suzanne (Mrs. Hector Coutu), Robert, Constance (Mrs. Jim St. Germain) and Julien.

Sylva was the daughter of Alphonse Ouellette and Vitaline Duval. She was born on February 21, 1900 at St. Onezime, county of Kamouraska, P.Q. Sylva was a twin

Gaston Bachelet back to the field after dinner. Son Robert watching, and notice barn and hog barn with sod roof, greenfeed stocked on roof of barn. Wagon always put on north side of house to avoid wooden wheels from drying out. 1931 on S.W. 4-56-12-W4th.

with her brother Adelard, being born 20 minutes before him. She took some of her schooling in Quebec when in 1910, she moved with her parents, and grandmother, Aline Ouellette, (nee' Pelletier) to Brosseau. She then went to school at St. Laurent in Brosseau with Mr. Alphonse Gallant as her teacher. On April 12, 1912, Sylva's mother died and Sylva felt it was her duty to help her grandmother to help bring up her brothers and sisters.

Sylva had been engaged to get married since she was 16 years of age, but stayed to help her grandmother tillshe was 24 years old. During this time she worked part time for Joe Brosseau as a cook, kept care of the children, and also at that time washing clothes by hand for 50¢ a day.

The three oldest children went to school in Vegreville, 1 year to the convent and 4 years to the public school. On Jan. 1, 1938, Gaston bought the store at Brosseau from Alphonse T. Brosseau and operated it till Sept. 1, 1971. They then went to live with their daughter in Camrose.

In 1939 he bought his first car, from Dick Eliuk, from Ispas. It was a 1928 Model A Ford and at the age of 51, he had no mechanical knowledge. George Emes Jr. taught him to drive, turn the key, press starter, pull choke, and hope it starts. Then press in the clutch, put it in gear, release clutch, press gas, and dig little holes with back wheels. (Jack-rabbit start)

One year having brought the kids to St. Jean Baptiste days in St. Paul, he went to visit his friend Albert Coutu, where old times were discussed over a jug of wine. On the way home after a rain storm, by the old Chamberlain place, muddy conditions forced him for the ditch, exactly where Mr. Chamberlain was repairing his hog fences along highway 28. When he saw this Model A coming straight for him and his fence, he made a 100 yd. dash to the north which could have qualified him for the Olympics. The Model A was stuck in the mud. Along came John Bodnar from Brosseau with a Model T Ford and pulled the car out of the mud to resume his journey home to Brosseau.

Gaston Bachelet and Sylva Bachelet (Ouellette)

During the first years of operating the store, they also ran the toll office for Alberta Government Telephones, and you bargained how much you wanted to deliver a phone message. One time at 2 a.m. with 40° below weather Sylva delivered a message to Peter Sherstianka, to advise him of a death in the family, a distance of 4 miles on foot, for the sum of $1.00.

There were lighter moments when one time going to the farm with his Model A Ford, a jackrabbit got infront of the car, and Gaston thinking of rabbit stew, decided to give it a chase. About 500 yds. from the farm gate, the rabbit still in the lead, Gaston realizes there were no brakes on the car. The rabbit went under the gate, past the farmhouse, and Gaston went through the brand new gate that his son Julien had just built. He stopped by the house, got out of the car, a little shaken up, pointing towards the barn and asked the kids if they had seen a rabbit go by. Son Julien, not too happy in seeing his new gate draped over the front of the Model A., came from the barn, and looking at his dad and said (ca y va le bonhomme.) really going oldman. Something very unusual to say with the strict upbringing with the respect to his parents.

In 1954 he gave up all his interest in the farm and sold all his land to his 2 sons Robert & Julien, and devoted his full time operating his general store. That same year he built a new store out of cement blocks and with business booming, the trading area would grow. In 1959 Gaston got sick and it was discovered he had cancer so he went and got operated in June, 1960. When Gaston came from the hospital, his visions of getting bigger dwindled.

Talking to Dr. Conroy & Dr. Giroux, Gaston would have between 6 months and 2 years to live, as was told to his son Robert after the operation. But Gaston would prove them wrong. They operated the store till September 1, 1970 when they leased it out to Ed & Helen Elkow of Duvernay and moved to Red Deer with their son-in-law Jim & Connie St. Germain. In August of 1975, they moved back to their old home, when their son Robert along with his daughter Louise opened a Dairy Drive Inn, in the old Bachelet store premises. In September of 1977, they moved back to Fort Saskatchewan with their daughter Connie and their son-in-law Jim St. Germain. As their health was failing, they moved into the Rivercrest Nursing Home in Fort Saskatchewan to live out the rest of their lives.

On August 10, 1978, Gaston passed away at the age of 90 years old. He was buried in the St. Laurent Roman Catholic cemetery at Brosseau, with Father L. Derome of Brosseau & Father G. MacInnis of Fort Saskatchewan officiating.

Five months later, on December 30, 1978, Sylva passed away at the age of 78 years old. She was buried in the St. Laurent Roman Catholic cemetery at Brosseau with Father L. Derome of Brosseau and Father G. MacInnis of Fort Saskatchewan officiating.

ROBERT J. BACHELET

Robert was born Dec. 30, 1926 on S.W. 4-56-12-W4th and brought into this world by midwife Mrs. Marie Louise Saulou. The summer of 1931 while helping my Uncle Sylvio Ouellette (he was working for my dad). To put the horses in the barn after supper, I went to close to the horse (Ned) and got kicked in the face. My Uncle carried me into the house, and according to my mother she put cold compresses on my head through the night before I regained consciousness. The closest hospital was Vegreville, and no cars available at that time, and I still sport a scar over my right eye, and a crooked nose.

In Sept. 1932, I went to a R.C. convent in Vegreville for 1 year of schooling with my sister Suzanne. Also in the

convent was Florence Brosseau who became my teacher 6 years later, at St. Laurent School at Brosseau, in 1938. One man who stands out in my life during my Vegreville school days was James McCrea, the principal, a scotchman with a little moustache. It seemed that on weekends any mischief done south of highway 16 in Vegreville, was blamed on the Home boys. (As we were called). So Monday mornings first greeting was, Home boys report to Mr. McCrea's office. From experience 15 of us boys would line up along the wall, roll up our sleeves and await our turn for the strap, and if by chance you pulled away, you got an extra one, and he had practice.

My 2 sisters, Suzanne and Connie were also going to the girls home. One time coming home for Christmas with René Grenier and my dad in a covered caboose pulled by two horses winding along the Vermilion river to Two Hills then Brosseau. My 2 sisters and myself sitting in the back and the horses jogging along with bells a tingling, René Grenier and Dad decided to fall asleep, from fatique and probably a little home brew. Talk about 3 worried kids, thinking we won't see our mother for a while, the horses will get lost, not knowing at that time that horses don't get lost, and by nightfall kissed our mother at home.

In Sept., 1938, we went to school in Brosseau as my dad bought the Alphonse Brosseau store and it was closer for us to walk to school.

The winter of 1938-39 I hired on as fire boy for St. Laurent school at Brosseau. Pay was 10¢ per day meaning I had to go half an hour earlier, to light the furnace. It really didn't matter too much if you were a little late, because the kids in front of the class shivered till noon, and the ones close to the furnace sweated it out. So the winter went by, only experiencing a few frozen cheeks and nose, always facing the north wind as we lived 2 miles south of the school. Every effort had its rewards when in June, Carmen Brosseau, gave me a cheque from the M.S. of St. Paul for $13 dollars. Walking home from school that day, with $13 I was the envy of every one of my school mates, I was rich with visions of candy and ice cream and chocolate bars. I got home to the store and I said Dad I got my cheque for lighting the fire. Dad causally looked at it and said, son, give it to your mother and she will order you a new suit to go to church with. So out comes the Dupuis Freres Inc. catalogue from Montreal and my new brown suit comes in the mail, I always detested that suit as it shattered my dreams of being a hero as long as my $13.00 would have lasted.

I can still remember when Catholics couldn't drink or eat after midnight to be able to go to communion. Mom would put us to bed early and would wake us up at 11:30 to eat or drink so we could go to communion Sunday morning.

June 30, 1940 I passed to grade nine, and as finances were bad my schooling days were over. The summer of 1940 I went to work for my Uncle Sylvio to master the art of farming.

March 1, 1941, Omer Theroux came to the store with his hay rack on the sleigh (The reason for the hay rack being he brought our furniture), his famous team of boys (Bob & Dick) and moved my sister Suzanne and I to S.W. 4-56-12-W4th, Dad's homestead to start my farming career. That first spring my dad bought me 3 horses and I made a deal with my Uncle Sylvio. I would harrow for him if he seeded in my crop (it took 4 horses for a drill). This meant walking 16 miles a day in loose land, dusty behind the harrows, because we had no harrow cart.

We worked with horses for 6 years and in 1947 bought a new John Deere (distillate tractor) from Marius Drouin from St. Paul and a 21 ft. IHC single disc from Mike Chrapko in Two Hills, Alberta. The tractor having no individual wheel brakes, and such a wide disc in rolling land, many a fence post came down when you couldn't negotiate the turns.

The winters of 1948-49 and 1949-50, I hit for the logging camps of British Columbia. With me came Edward Brosseau, Bill Peterson, Jean-Marie Ouellette and Rene Robinson. We worked at the Upper Fraser Spruce Mills, Upper Fraser B.C., J.S. Trick Lumber at Aleza Lake, B.C. In February, 1950, my cousin Jean-Marie Ouellette got killed at Upper Fraser Spruce Mills and I came home with the body. That was the end of my logging career.

The winter of 1950-51, I went to work in the oilfields of Redwater with Barney Weir. In March of 1951, Barney and I got on the train on Saturday morning for Edmonton, with a blizzard in full swing. By 2 a.m. Sunday morning, we had gotten as far as Coronado (approx. 20 miles) when the train got struck in the snow drifts. The snow plow rescued us at 3 a.m. Sunday. We got to Edmonton in time for breakfast, and then back on the train to Redwater (wasted weekend) for work Monday morning.

In August of 1953 my sister Connie (our cook) went to Trochu for Ruth Wirachowsky's entry into becoming a nun. On Saturday, Mrs. Jennie Fedoruk (our neighbour) sent her 2 girls, Irene and Evie to borrow our roaster. As it was in those days, if you owned something and your neighbour needed it, you lent it to him. Thinking no more about it, till Sunday morning when getting ready to walk to church in Brosseau, there was a knock on the door and standing there were Irene and Evie Fedoruk with our roaster. The girls said that their mom, (Jennie Fedoruk) made you some food for Sunday seeing that your cook was away for a few days. Roast chicken, carrots, potatoes, and cabbage, the spirit of the Old West. (Thank-You Mrs. Fedoruk).

In 1954 electric power came to the ranch. In November of 1954, I went over to Uncle Sylvio Ouellette to help celebrate the arrival of a new cousin and after a lot of homemade wine, I asked Lorraine Berlinguette (their maid) if she would come to the New Years Eve dance in Two Hills. She accepted which started a romance, and 10 months later on October 20, 1955 I married Lorraine in St. Paul R.C. Cathedral with Rev. Father Poulin officiating.

Lorraine was born October 20, 1936 to Romeo and Yvette Berlinguette of Owlseye, Alberta. In September of 1943, she attended Chartier school till 1948 with Olivier Lafleur as teacher. In 1949 the country school was closed and was bussed to St. Paul Racette school till 1951 finishing school. Lorraine then went to work in the Cou-

vent de L'assomption in Edmonton till 1952. After that she came back to help her parents on the farm till 1955 when we got married.

After a 3 week honeymoon to B.C. and the Northwest U.S.A. we came back to settle on N.E. 33-55-12-W4th. In 1956, I became a director on the Champlain Rural Electrification Assoc. and sometimes as secretary and also as chairman of the board till 1969, when I didn't let my name stand for office.

It was full time farming for the Bachelet's, and on October 8, 1956 our first daughter Louise Lucille (Mrs. Chris Redington) was born in Two Hills Municipal Hospital.

October 30, 1957 our first son Robert Rene was born in Two Hills Municipal Hospital.

Just a little more than a year later our second son Gerald was born in Two Hills Municipal Hospital, on Dec. 23, 1958.

On June 20, 1961, during one of the worst downpours of rain I have ever witnessed in my farming career, our second daughter Yolande Sylva was born in Two Hills Municipal Hospital. Two hours after the storm was over, water was still flowing 100 ft. wide across the road. (The culvert couldn't even handle it). (N.E. 33-55-12-W4th).

The summer of 1961 was ideal for hay and it produced a bumper crop of 60 bales an acre. That year Saskatchewan was dried out. Through our D.A., Bill Dent, in Two Hills we took 90 cows on a share basis from Carl and Lawrence Schmalzbauer of Hoosier Saskatchewan on a share basis of ⅔ for my brother and I and ⅓ for the Schmalbauers. My brother and I were in partnership then. They were trucked in at their expense by Gerald Hanson of Dewar Lake, Saskatchewan. In November it used to get from 40 to 45 below so they used to let the truck run all night, the nights they slept at the ranch. The cold weather lasted all winter. In March when the cows were calving, I had to get up every hour of the night to check on them as we only had a small barn. If there was a calf born I had to pack him in the barn and dry him off. Then I went out to get the cow to give the calf his first milk. He would then have to go out side in order to have room for another calf. It was so cold that the gas turbines at the Chemcell Plant only 1½ miles away sounded like they were right behind our bale shed.

At this time Lorraine was in hospital so I was cooking for my brother Julien and our hired man Raymond Berlinguette and after 10 days I overheard them say, "I sure hope Lorraine comes home soon."

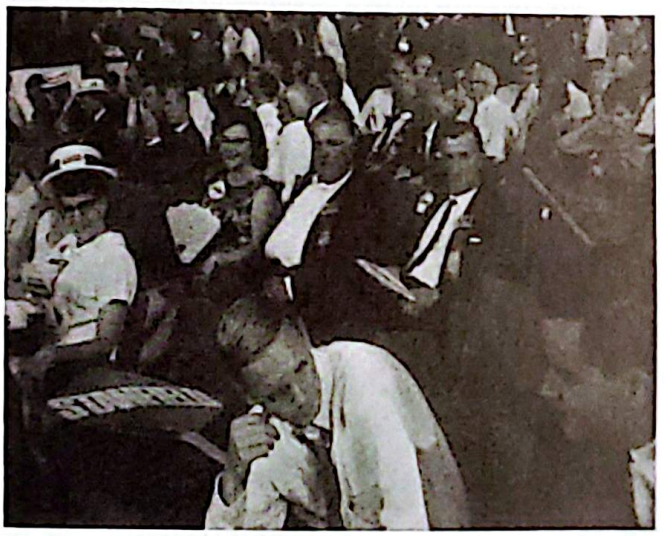
In August of 1961 my wife and I along with Bill and Ann Melnychuk drove to Hoosier, Saskatchewan to look at these cows. In Hoosier it was 100 degrees at night, the grass was brown, as if it was October, the wheat was 8 to 10 inches high, and there were a lot of grasshoppers. We slept at Marengo, Sask. next to the railway yard and it was 100 degrees in the morning, so my wife and I moved to the floor of the hotel room to sleep where it was a lot cooler. Next day we drove to Hoosier, Saskatchewan to look at the cows. It was hard to believe the cows were in such good shape because the grass was very dry. So we made a deal with Carl and Lawrence Schmalzbauer that when they brought the cows, we'd go to a lawyer to draw up an agreement. Well we kept those cows for 5 years and never did draw up an agreement, never had time to go, which goes to prove that in the west a man's word is as good as the law. That same year my brother and I shipped 7 car loads of hay via C.P.R. into Saskatchewan. We used to load the hay at the Chemcell Plant siding in Duvernay, within 24 hours after the car was spotted, or had to pay demurage charges, and was it ever cold.

January 5, 1963, our third son, Raymond was born in Two Hills Municipal Hospital. At about this time I went farming in partnership with Lloyd Butcher (Blackie as we know him) in Duvernay. We leased 6 quarters of land plus our own, had a full time hired man and during spring work, summerfallow, and fall work, 1 tractor used to work around the clock (2-12 hr. shifts). During these years quite a few people worked for us. To name a few, Romeo Berlinguette (my father-in-law), Robert, Raymond, and Camille Berlinguette (3 brother-in-laws), Maurice Lavallee, who later became my brother-in-law, marrying Lorraines sister, Annette, Jim St. Germain who also became our brother-in-law, marrying our sister Connie. Other hired-hands, John and Darlene Yakimowich, Willy Chief and his wife, Leonard Stamp, Arthur Smith, Joe Bohaychuk, Andre' St. Gelais, Nick Trufan, Robert M. Cardinal, Arthur Boulianne, John Cheredark, Jimmy Smith, Johnny Quintal, Leonard Bodnaruk, and Albert (Doc) St. Jean to name a few.

Feb. 4, 1964 saw the birth of our fourth son, Andre Adrien who was born at Two Hills Municipal Hospital. As a co-incidence, Dr. M.E. Chonko of Two Hills was the person who brought all our children into this world, plus looking after all our other ills, and with six kids that meant quite a few calls. Louise, for instance, emptied a bottle of pills, walked out to the bale shed where I was working and at four years old, all flushed and slurring her words we thought we'd better rush her to the hospital. Her stomach had to be pumped out. At 5 years of age Gerald put his finger in the hitch while helping me hook up the bale wagon. The end of his finger, right hand, was left in his glove, so another trip to the hospital. Andre, at five years of age, fell of the bale stack and broke his arm in two places. Brother-in-law, Maurice Lavallee, and I made a trip to the hospital in record time. We've been quite fortunate in bringing up our family. Thanks to the good Lord.

I'm still farming, raising Angus cattle, Yorkshire hogs, sheep and horses. In 1967, I was chosen as a delegate to the Progressive Conservative Convention in Toronto when Robert Stanfield was elected leader. My wife Lorraine and I, George (Spike & Olga Eglinski, & Norman & Florence Mailloux, and Lawrence Coutu also as delegates flew Air Canada to Toronto. while we were there, we drove to the Niagara Falls with Iskiw (Olga Eglinsk's brother). It was just beautiful. We also went up to the top of the tower to view the falls. The convention was held in the Maple Leaf Gardens. There were 6000 delegates, all the voting was done by machine, and all a person had to do was walk in the booth, choose delegate by pushing a

Vegreville Consituency Delegates to Toronto, Ontario in 1967. George M. Eglinski, Olga Eglinski, Laurent Coutu, Lorraine Bachelet, Bob Bachelet. This was the Convention that John G. Diefenbaker went down to defeat and Robert L. Stanfield became leader of the Progressive Conservative Party.



At the Convention.

button opposite the name, pull lever, open door and walk out. There were 20 booth's so it took only 2 hours to put everyone through and count the ballots. The convention had arranged for a 3 day tour to Expo in Montreal. So I phoned my partner Lloyd Butcher (Blackie) on September 2, 1967 and he said the crop was ready so we came back home. That year was a perfect fall, no rain. We could have harvested 2 crops that year as it was a dry year but it was good quality grain.

Being always interested in politics, a group of people asked me to let my name stand for county councillor in Division 4. So in 1969, I got elected as councillor in a field of 3 people contesting the seat. Dave Chomik was always my campaign manager, and I still hold the same position today. Council work has been enjoyable, working with good fellow men, but it's very hard on the wife and children because they have to pick up the extra work while I'm gone away on council business. There's been good times, Cleveland, Ohio, U.S.A., courtesy of General Motors to tour there factory, producing road building equipment Tulsa, Oklahoma, U.S.A., courtesy of Dupont of Canada to tour there factory producing plastic pipe which the County Gas system is constructed with. Peoria, Illinios, U.S.A., courtesy of R. Angus Caterpillar dealers in Alberta to there factory wher earthmoving equipment is manufactured. Goderich, Ontario, Canada, courtesy of Ferguson Supply dealers of Champion motor graders.

When I was first elected, I was not sitting on the school portion of the County of Two Hills, as I was sitting as chairman of the St. Laurent Roman Catholic Separate school and then became a member of the County of Two Hills school system when our school closed its doors. During this time Fred Hasiuk, councillor of Division 3 and Walter Verenka, councillor of division 5 looked after the school needs in division 4.

In 1973 I was appointed director of the Lakeland Tourist Assn. Zone 6 for the County of Two Hills #21, a position I still hold today. In 1977, I became president of the Lakeland Tourist Assn. Zone 6 and Blaine Alexander as manager when we won the Gray Line Award. This award is given to one of the 14 Zones in Alberta for the biggest promotion of the tourism for the year. In that year we helped promote the Cold Lake Air Show, and a Heritage trip to Fort Chipewyan by boat up the Athabasca river from Fort McMurray. Being president of the assn., I got on the best boat along with the past president, Peter Doonanco of Glendon and Bill Kokotailo from Two Hills. Bob Cook of Fort McMurray took off at 9 a.m. with 14 people aboard on his boat. With all our luck we had trouble 6 hours later, so at 8 p.m. a Cessna 185 float plane belonging to Lawrence Yanik of Fort Chip landed alongside of our crippled boat so we told him we were alright so we'd keep floating down stream but to send a boat to tow us. We floated downstream till dark and then pulled alongside

Annual Prairie Oyster Fry at Ralph Steinhauer ranch. Left to right Lloyd Butcher (Blackie), Gerald Ouellette, George Pundick and Vern Chisian with a pail of oysters ready for filleting (1976).

the shore, lit a bonfire and stayed there all night. At 5 a.m. we started downstream again, till a Hanson boy on his way to Fort McMurray spotted us. So he came over to our boat and towed us to Fort Chipewyan. We arrived in Fort Chipewyan at 1 p.m. the next day. The trip took us 28 hours which it should have only taken us 8 hours.

In october, 1977, we chartered a DC-3 aircraft from Contact Airways in Fort McMurray for a directors meeting in Fort Chipewyan. Aboard the plane were Peter & Dorothy Orlecki, Dave & Elizabeth Chomik from Two Hills, my wife Lorraine and I a total of 28 directors of Zone 6. We left Fort Chipewyan at 7 p.m. after the meeting and shortly after being airborne, we ran into a terrific rainstorm. Our Pilot Don Hamilton told us to keep our seatbelts on, and that we were flying at 4800 feet as that was the best height for the least turbulances. I was sitting right up front with Jack Kroehler from Fort McMurray, when the stewardess (Don Hamiltons wife) gave us a drink of pop in a plastic glass. After an hour of bouncing around in the storm, I looked up at the ceiling and spotted a drop of water on the roof. During this time Jack was relating all the hair raising events he went through when he was in Cuba, and the attempts on his life. He was managing a chain of hotels in Cuba. About this time the stewardess came around and I asked her if it was raining outside. She said it was coming down by the bushel so I asked her to ask the pilot to put on the wing lights so we could observe the rain pelting down. The stewardess asked why I asked and I told her that my friend, Jack Kroehler's knee is wet and it's coming down from the roof. She casually said, "Oh yeah, in these old planes you can expect a few drips here and there". Well that was the end of the conversation with Jack, as he just sat there petrified. I could assume what was going through his mind, He got out of Cuba alive, but now were going to crash in the swamp between Fort Chipewyan and Fort McMurray. After 2 hours we landed in Fort McMurray and all 28 of us just clapped and cheered and sang For They Are Jolly Good Pilots to Don Hamilton, his wife and co-pilot, Marvin Keyser.

Lakeland Tourist Association. The inside of a DC-3 Contact Airways plane, with 28 directors on their way to a meeting in Fort Chipewyan, 1977. Donna and Blaine Alexander manager of Zone 6 are the two persons on the left of picture.

On July 23, 1977 we married our daughter Louise to Chris Redington of Fort Assiniboine at Brosseau. They now have 2 children, Karen and Grant. In 1976 I opened a Texaco Bulk & Service Station and a Dairy Drive-Inn in the former Gaston Bachelet General Store at Brosseau. Along with my wife Lorraine, daughters Louise and Yolande, sons Rene, Gerald, Raymond, and Andre (Squirt) we ran the business till August of 1978 when we closed due to lack of help, due to running a large ranch, plus being a county councillor, took up all of our time. In March of 1976, we got the contract to supply fuel for Flint Engineering Ltd. While constructing a 12" natural gas pipeline from the St. Brides compressor station crossing the North Saskatchewan river going in a southwesterly direction to the Warwick compressor station. They crossed the river at the River View Ranch location N.E. 33-55-12-W4th. My son Gerald and I used to leave every evening at 5 p.m. to service all the equipment along the right of way. There were ditchers, backhoes, sidebooms, cats, track-type backhoes, and by the time we finished all these machinery we'd get home at 3 or 4 o'clock in the morning. When it rained the right of way was muddy, and sometimes we had to walk 2 to 3 miles to get a caterpillar tractor to pull us out. While crossing the North Saskatchewan in March, we had to go every 4 hours to service the equipment. By the time Flint Engineering got finished with the pipeline river crossing, spring thaw was in progress. The water on the river was close to the front bumper on a 1 ton Dodge fuel truck. It was a pretty scary operation when we had to be pulled up the river bank by a cat tractor. Ted Lawrence was the superintendent of the operations, and the cooperation of Flint Engineering and the men were great, resulting in harmonius working relationship between Bachelet Texaco Service and Flint Engineering Ltd. of Edmonton.

Back row; Andre, Gerald, Suzie, Robert Bachelet, Louise, Chris and Yolande. Front row; Raymond, Karen, Lorraine and Rene.

We had a few misfortunes when in 1963 my 2 sons, Rene and Gerald (probably smoking) set fire to 1000 square straw bale stack. Luckily a northwest wind was blowing the flames away because close by there was a bale shed with 6000 bales of choice quality hay.

Also on December 23, 1971 at 6 o'clock in the morning at 40° below, Lorraine looked out the window and yelled out the garage is on fire. Valuable harness, collars, antique wooden washing machine and many other vlauable things went up in smoke. There was also a 2 year old 1955-T Cockshutt diesel tractor with the cab that also burnt. Luckily being very cold and no wind an 8 stall hog farrowing barn about 25' away was saved.

At this time, 3 of the boys are not interested in farming with the big money available in the Oil patch, working for Bil-Mac Construction & Oilfield Maintenance Ltd. of Two Hills, Markell Construction of Bonnyville, Joe Gourley of Vermilion, and W&D Trucking of Manville. But hoping in a few years a couple of the boys will take over the River View Ranch, to keep it in the third generation of the Bachelet's.

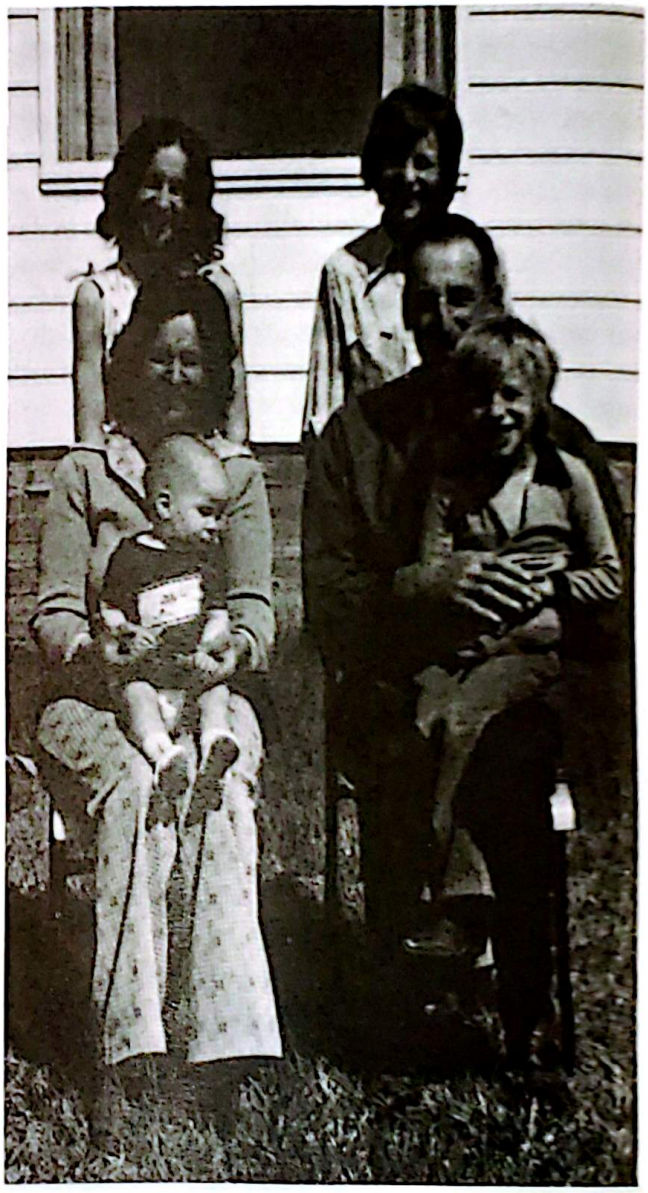
JULIEN BACHELET

by Robert Bachelet

Julien Bachelet is the son of Gaston & Sylva Bachelet. He was born on August 17, 1931. He started school in 1938 and left in 1946 finishing grade 8. His teachers were Florence Brosseau (Mrs. Norman Mailloux), and Miss Carmen Brosseau. In 1948 Jule went farming in partnership with his brother Robert on their dad's homestead on S.W. 4-56-12-W4th. During the winter of 1951, Jule was riding his horse, Nigger, and he fell off, and broke his leg. At the time his brother was working in Redwater and didn't get to see a doctor for 3 weeks, because there was so much work to do. Finally he went to get a cast put on and crutches. Jule was an avid horseman and helped break many a bronco. Also in the winter of 1951, the neighbors wife was expecting, so with a storm a brewing and poor roads, Jule had to go up to highway 36, every 2 hours a distance of 1½ miles, with his 1947 Pontiac, to make sure the road was opened in case their neighbors wife had to be rushed to hospital during the night.

In 1953, Jule was employed by C.H. Witham Contractors Ltd. while consltructing the Western Chemical Plant in Duvernay for a period of 2 years. He was farming at the same time.

On May 1, 1965, Jule married Marie Martha Boulianne of Brosseau. Marie was the daughter of Paul & Elianne Boulianne of Brosseau. She was born on August 14, 1943 in Notre Dame la Dore, P.Q. They were married by Father Jean Luc Pigeon in the Roman Catholic Church in Brosseau. The wedding reception was at Marie's parents place. They then moved to N.E. 9-56-1-W4th, the old (Pete Hnatiuk's place) to commense their farming career. Marie came to Alberta with her mom and dad in 1954. She went to school in Quebec from grade 1-4, starting in 1969, then coming to Brosseau St. Laurent school for grades 5-7 in 1954 to 1959. She then went to Vegreville for grade 8, in 1959. Upon finishing her schooling, she went to work at Bishop Lussier residence in St. Paul, then a housemaid for Brenda Dronyk and Mr. & Mrs. Joe Blonsky, and her last job was a waitress for Lucy Kalynchuk, in the Imperial Esso Station on the hill at Two Hills. She then returned to the farm to help her parents till she got married.



Marie and Jule Bachelet with their family Caroline, Joseph, Baby Roger and Chad in 1980.

They now have 4 children; Joseph was born on October 12, 1966, Caroline was born on November 30, 1967, Chad was born on September 25, 1975, and Roger was born on August 20, 1979. In 1969, Jule bought out his father-in-laws (Paul Boulianne) section of land. At this time Jule dissolved his partnership with his brother. Jule and Gerald Ouellette were riding in a round-up for a few years in the Rannack Community Pasture.

JIM ST. GERMAIN

by Robt. Bachelet

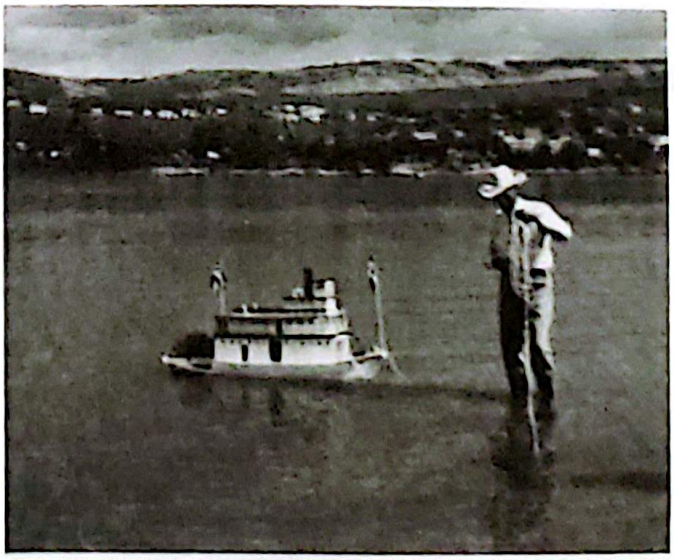
Jim was born May 22, 1921, son of Charles and Maria St. Germain of Peace River. In 1928 Jim attended school at the St. Augustine Mission of Peace River which is 9 miles up the Shaftsbury Trail finishing grade 5 in 1934. Farmed till 1936 with his dad and in 1937 went to work with the same mission where he had went to school, with Father Eugene Beaucage O.M.I. as the director. Sister Antoinette (Emilia Degendron) sister Edward of the sacred heart (Yvonne Priveau) were Jim's 2 teachers. In 1938 Father Louis Girard O.M.I. became Jim's boss till 1934. Father Marcel Proulx taking over till 1935 when Jim quit work at the mission In 1942 Jim was called to serve his country and reported in Calgary but was sent home because he was taking care of all the farm work at the mission producing food for the war efforts. In 1946 he went back farming, some trapping, two summers on a seismic crew with pack horses, for Tommy Wilde of North Pine, B.C. In 1952 he went to work for Early's Market Garden up the Shaftsbury Trail. In 1954 Preston and Clark were putting in a gas pipeline from Bluesky to Grimshaw and Jim took a job as a pipespacer for the welders. Farming was still Jim's liking and went to work for Cliff Vangrud of Grimshaw as a carpenter erecting most of his farm buildings, also for John King of King's Construction as truck driver and carpenter till 1958.

Vernon B.C. was Jim's home for two years as a canter in a sawmill for Millar and Hanson. In 1960 Jim was at Whitecourt working for Dahl construction as a carpenter, also in Valleyview for Poole Construction till 1963. In September of 1963 Jim answered an ad in the Edmonton Journal for River View Ranch of Brosseau, and went to work for the Bachelet Brothers and Lloyd Butcher of Duvernay, Jim is known for his fiddle playing. On June 6, 1967, Jim married his bosses sister Connie Bachelet at St. Laurent Roman Catholic Church at Brosseau, Father Jean Luc Pigeon officiating. Connie is the second daughter of Gaston and Sylva Bachelet of Brosseau. She was born on July 10, 1929 and attended school in Vegreville from September 1936 to June 1938 when she resumed her schooling in September of 1938 at St. Laurent School in Brosseau. Miss Florence Brosseau (Mrs. Norman Mailloux), Miss Carmen C. Brosseau were 2 of her teachers finishing her grade 8, in June of 1944. Then Connie went to cook for her brother Bob on the farm S.W. 4-56-12-4 till September 1948, then she went to work at St. Joseph's Hospital in Vegreville till May of 1949 coming home to cook for her 2 brother's Bob and Jule on the farm. She went back to work at the hospital in October 1949 and coming home in April 1950 for a span of 5 years cooking for her 2 brothers till October 1955 when Bob got married.

In August of 1951 Connie went with Mr. & Mrs. Barney Wirachowsky and their daughter Madonna to Trochu Alberta for the induction of their daughter into the Catholic Order of becoming a nun. In 1956-57, she worked at the Royal Alex Hospital in Edmonton as housekeeper and she returned home to look after her mom and dad also operating their general store at Brosseau, till 1967 when she got married.

The summer of 1967, Jim worked for McCra Construction building the Centennial Hall in Two Hills and meanwhile living with Connie's parents at Bachelet's General Store in Brosseau. In April of 1968 Jim & Connie moved to Camrose working for Kenwood Engineeing of Lethbridge as a carpenter and Connie as a housekeeper in St. Mary's Hospital till April of 1970. In April of 1970, they moved to Red Deer. Jim worked for Federated Co-op and Connie at Valley Park Manor as a housekeeper. A happy reunion for Connie and Jim when on September 1, 1970 when Connie's parents moved in with them. In June of 1971 they saw their new home in Fort Saskatchewan with Connie working at the Rivercrest Lodge and Jim with Delta Projects as a carpenter.

Jim and Connie St. Germain (1967).



On July 30 and 31, 1977, a model of one of the grand old riverboats which plied the waters on the Peace River in Northern Alberta and B.C. was launched during the Peace River Heritage days. The Model is one of the S.S.D.A. Thomas, a sternwheeler that served communities along the 550 mile stretch of the Peace River from Fort Vermilion to Hudson's Hope, 1916 to 1930. The 4 foot long model was constructed by Jim St. Germain of Fort Saskatchewan formerly of Peace River.

The unveiling of the cairn at the St. Augustine's Mission at Peace River on July 31, 1977. The Church was built in 1896. Seen left to right: Lieutenant Governor Ralph Steinhauer, R.C.M.P. from Peace River (both names unknown), Rev. Hoskin, Jim St. Germain, Al (Boomer) Adair, Sam Nahirney from the Solicitor General's department, Tim Drummond, director of Peace River Correctional Institution which is on the site where St. Augustine's Mission once stood.

Jim's Country Comebacks Band. Alex Hlewka, Dianne Fedoruk, Alice McNally and Jim St. Germain.

In 1977 Jim and Connie were instrumental in the organization of building a replica of the D.A. Thomas paddlewheeler that used to ply the Peace River and also unvieling of a plaque honoring the sisters of providence, the oblate fathers at the St. Augustine Mission now the site of the Peace River institute. In the spring of 1979 after both of Connie's parents passing away at the River Crest Lodge, there was nothing to hold Connie and Jim at the Fort. So they moved to Wetaskiwin and Jim is still in the carpentry field and Connie is now working in the Wetaskiwin General Hospital. Jim is an avid musician and likes to restore antiques. Connie goes to listen to Jim and his band play on weekends.

MR. & MRS. FRED BIDULOCK

by John Bidulock

Fred Bidulock was born in the province of Romania under the Austrian rule on the 25th day of August 1890. He was the only son and youngest in the family of five. His mother died when he was twelve years of age. He had to leave school and go out to work. One could see he was a hard worker by the huge hands he had developed.

Maria Bidulock (nee Semenowich) oldest daughter of a family of five, was born in Romania on November 4, 1896. Maria and Fred got married in the late fall of 1913 in the Shepenetz area and settled in the Ispas district and resided there till Fred Bidulock died on January 28, 1970 and Maria Bidulock died on August 6, 1978.

Fred and Maria had a log house with a sod roof which Fred had built before they got married. Both had to work hard to clear some land for a garden and some mixed farming — cattle, grain, chickens and ducks.

They first started to till the land with a pair of oxen, but the idea was soon given up and he traded the oxen for a pair of skinny horses from a rancher. The horses were more versatile. The cattle would roam in the open range and grazing land was plentiful. There were no threshing machines around. So threshing had to be done by flail or laying of sheaves or the horses running on top round and round.

Fred Bidulock migrated to Canada by boat in 1907 with his brother-in-law. he knew very little of how to read and write and soon picked up the English language and learnt Italian working mostly with them in mines and railway construction and with other people with foreign languages.

During the war Fred worked in the Coleman and Blairmore coal mines. Natural gas and other gases were very active in these mines and not many wanted to work in these mines. Just a few years before, the Frank Slide covered the town with rubble. The authorities of the mine asked Fred if he would stay with the work in the mines, he would receive some recognition or serving in the army during war years. He got to know the mine work very well for he was there for a considerable length of time. He also worked on the railway between Banff and Field. There were no Spiral Tunnels at that time, most of the time the train would go down and up once the tracks had to be changed at that grade because of its steepness. Later they decided to build the Spiral Tunnels. There again it was dangerous work. The blast engineers would set up charges by the fuse method and when the blast would go off. Some charges were missed and when the steam shovel would pickup the rubble the missed charge would go off, causing casualties. When the power line was brought in and the charge would be set by electrical fuses then there was not the danger of missed charges.

Near Steven Lake a water tank and locomotive jumped the tracks and fell on its side into the lake. Fred ran to the turned locomotive and noticed the fire man was completely under water. The Engineer pulled himself out while Fred helped the fireman and rescued his life.

Fred worked on the High Level Bridge in Edmonton. When the cement was being poured to form the pillars a track on a scafold with a cart was maintained to carry the mixed cement. One day the water in the river with debris pushed against the scafold and forced it to a collapse. Fred and another man by the name of Kokotialo was just hooking the cart to the cable to be taken up to be filled again, but as the scafold was going over both Fred and Kokotialo got into the cart and the engineer on the bank of the river rushed them up by cables behind them, the scafold was falling over. This all had to be rebuilt.

During work he filed for a homestead. In between working on the construction he wanted to see what the land looked like. There were already two neighbors near his homestead, George S. Beezak and Metro Hunchak. Soon he had to spend more time on the land in order to be able to retain it for his title. Soon after that he got married to Maria.

Maria Bidulock nee Semenowich, came to Canada in 1902 on the boat called Coleberg and landed in Halifax. Then by railway train all the way to Strathcona now called South Edmonton. Here they waited a few days and were taken to a farmer near Hairy Hill. Here is where Maria's father decided to file for a homestead in the area later called Shepenetz. Here they built their sod roof house. Times were bad, no money and very little food to eat. But a worst tragedy followed, Maria's mother died in 1904. Maria was only eight years old. The hardships were mounting by leaps and bounds. Three of the younger ones in the family were taken by other families with better means to cope with life. Maria was taken by Mrs. Billy Edmonds.

In this home Maria had learnt many things; how to set the table for guests, how to cook, to ride the horse to bring home the cattle and the mail, and also how to make and bake bread. In her life here she went to school for five days. Maria learned the English language with an English accent. Maria was able to do much in helping Mrs. Edmonds. She did the chores, cooked and helped with the dishes, did sewing done all by hand, also knitting by hook. But this all came to an end when Maria's father heard that Maria could make and bake bread, he decided to get the family together again. He came to see Mrs. Edmonds in order to take Maria back to his home. This was a very sorrowful moment. All three were shedding tears. Maria's father knew his home was not like Mrs. Edmonds, and that Maria and Mrs. Edmonds were very close. It was indeed a bitter parting for a twelve year old. Maria went home with her father and her hands were always occupied, washing, sewing, cooking, baking, knitting mostly in winter months and sewing dresses for herself and her sisters. She being the only older one at home had to go to the store to get a few things which they could not grow such as sugar, matches, salt, cloth, thread and needles. A few chickens provided with some eggs and after accumulating about five or six dozen eggs, Maria would take them to Duvernay, nine miles away, walking on a path across fields and beside creeks through the pines and bush to sell the eggs and buy the bare essentials.

Maria had to care for her brother and sister as her father would be many days away building homes for other people. As the years went by things were getting better. The Shepenitz post office was located near by, and there were more varieties at the stores. Maria's younger sister was getting older and Maria would teach her how to do things, also how to write the alphabet. There was some land broken by this time for a garden and grain, some cattle and milk cows. As the years went by this also has ended as Maria got married to Fred Bidulock.

There was no easy task for Maria and Fred on the farm either. Again land had to be developed, the roads were very poor. There were wild animals or bears and coyotes and the chickens were killed by skunks and coyotes.

To this couple thirteen children were born, all on the homestead. There was plenty of work to keep the family busy. Discipline and work were regarded as the most essential. The children would pick blueberries and wild raspberries. The garden was always full of all sorts of vegetables later stored for the winter. In the winter wool was prepared for knitting. Later Fred purchased a used knitting machine and made socks and mitts for other people to get some money.

Fred Bidulock in 1932.

Front row L. to R. Katheleen, Maria and Fred Bidulock, Baby Bertha, George and Pearl. Back row L. to R. Gladys, Nick, Mike, Steve, Helen and Don in 1932.

The breaking of land became more and more needed. So, Fred bought a used threshing machine, the first of its kind in this area that had a straw carrier instead of a blower. The machine was fed by hand and powered with a portable big flywheel engine. The first car in this area was a Model T Ford purchased by Fred.

As time went on the children were getting bigger. The roads were improved, schools were more regular and managing to keep teachers. The C.P.R. railway went through giving us the town of Hairy Hill.

Some older children did not have the opportunity to attend too much school, however later this was changed. The younger children all finished with degrees. All the children are now married and are on their own, except for one who is not married. This is the most unique family in many ways. Fred and Maria Bidulock not highly religious have children who are Catholic, Greek Orthodox, United Church, Nazarene, Jehovah Witness and Seven Day Adventist and yet the family is very much united.

Maria Bidulock was awarded the Senior Citizen Award 1905-1955 Golden Jubilee.

Mr. & Mrs. Fred Bidulock's Family

JOHN BIDULOCK — the oldest in the family was born on the homestead in Ispas, Alberta on January 28th, 1915. As he got older he always wanted to be a soldier. John had to walk three and one half miles to school. School was very much interrupted because of shortage of teachers. Some years they would have only three months of school. When he got to grade seven and eight these were full school years. Grade eight and up were tested by a provincial examination. John wanted to go further to school but finances were limited and the one room school was unable to teach grade nine.

John worked on the farm for a while, and money was scarce and it was impossible to buy a suit of clothes or other better things in life.

John went to Vernon, B.C., the pay was better. In 1936 he joined the non-permanent melitia — British Columbia Dragoons. He went to Military camp every year and trained on horse back. The second term he was chosen on a demonstration ride similar to the R.C.M.P. musical ride.

When King George came to Edmonton in 1937, John Bidulock in the Alberta Dragoons Royal Escorts from Vegreville.

In 1938 John came home and was transferred to the 19th Alberta Dragoons. During the Royal Visit "King George VI" John was one of the Royal Guards near the Legislative Building Edmonton, shortly after war was declared. The Dragoons did not mobilize and John tried the Air Force. His education being limited he was sent to a Youth center for one year. His conduct being assessed he was able to join the RCAF. After vigorous training he got his overseas furlough to report back in Halifax. There the troops waited for six weeks before the Atlantic was safe to cross in a convoy of thirty-four boats. John served overseas for over three years and when the war ended was flown back to Canada and got his discharge in Vancouver, B.C.

Jobs were at a premium so John decided to go back to school. He chose the Canadian Union College near Lacombe, Alberta. There he was unable to get his degree because the college was not affiliated with the University of Alberta. He started a bookbindery and also joined the Medical Cadets. When he left the bindery it was one of the largest binderies in Western Canada. When his father died he came back to the farm to look after his mother and do the farming.

He got a call to join the 782 Squadron Cadets at Two Hills. There he served as Supply Officer, Administrator Office, he went to Penhold for an Officer Training Course, then back to Two Hills and got promoted to Captain and Commanding Officer of 782 RCACS.

After two years as C.O. and because of his age he was asked to resign on retirement. After retirement he was asked to be the Civilian Instructor for the Squadron. John is on the farm and intends to retire soon.

GLADYSE ANDRIATZ — nee Bidulock was born on the farm on December 28th, 1915 in the Ispas area. Gladys had to walk 3½ miles to school. As she got older she went out to help with house work for farmers wives. Gladyse and Bill got married and raised a family of four. Gladyse became an invalid and retired at an early age.

MIKE BIDULOCK — was born in Ispas, Alberta on the farm on the 15th day of July 1917. He was a very talented mechanic. Due to poor health he died in 1937 in the Calgary Sanatorium.

DANIEL BIDULOCK — was born in Ispas, Alberta on the farm on October 22nd, 1918. In his older age a very reliable worker on the farm. During the war he joined the RCAF. He served in Canada only and was promoted to Corporal. Daniel was discharged in Vancouver, B.C. There he took steam engineering. Daniel and Margaret Garey were married after the war and raised a family of five children.

HELENE SEMENUIK — nee Bidulock, was born in Ispas, Alberta on the 28th day of August, 1920. Helene, when she got older helped on the farm. She married Philip Semenuik and raised a family of four children. Her husband died in 1970 and she retired at present in Edmonton.

NICK BIDULOCK — was born on the farm in Ispas, Alberta on July 22, 1922. He was brilliant in school but liked farming. Nick operated a school bus for many years. Nick and Nancy Kuzz were married in Desjarlais and raised a family of three. They now live in Fort Saskatchewan.

STEVE BIDULOCK — was born on the farm in Ispas, Alberta on the 28th of May, 1924. Steve went to school at Deep Lake later in Hairy Hill. He got a job with Imperial Lumber and later as manager of the place. After seventeen years he resigned from the Imperial Lumber and went into the lumber and hardware business on his own. Steve was elected on different occasions as councilor and Mayor of Hairy Hill. Now he is the secretary-treasure of the town. He has been on the Board of School Trustees for many years. He is also chairman of the North Eastern Alberta School Trustee Association. Steve is a member of the Elks. In his young age he served as an army cadet in Hairy Hill.

Steve and Mary Hanchurak were married in Hairy Hill, Alberta and raised a family of three. Steve is still in business with the lumber and hardware, agent for Treasury Branch and for license plates, and Fish and Game.

KATHLEEN LYPKA — nee Bidulock was born on the farm in Ispas, Alberta on the 2nd of April, 1926. Kathleen worked in stores, hospital and cafes in Two Hills. She has been a driver of school bus for many years. She operatd a confectionary and now is the agent for Simpson-Sears in Two Hills. Kathleen was married to Metro Lypka in Derwent, Alberta and raised a family of four children.

PEARL MURRAY — nee Bidulock was born on the farm in Ispas, Alberta on the 14th of May 1928. Pearl Murray went to the University of Alberta and finished with a Bachelor of Arts. She taught school in the County of Two Hills, in Edmonton, County of Vermilion and Montreal. Pearl and David Murray were married in Edmonton and raised a family of four children. Now in 1980 both Pearl and Dr. David Murray are in Stuttgart, West Gemany. Pearl and David travelled all of Europe, South America and the States.

GEORGE BIDULOCK — was born on the farm in Ispas, Alberta on the 25th day of December, 1930, a Christmas child. After finishing high school George entered the University of Alberta as an electrical engineer. When he graduated with a Bachelor of Science he joined the RCAF and served and instructed on electronics and computor science. He was promoted to Flying Officer and after four years he went back to the university and acquired his Master of Science in electronics. He got a job with the Alberta Government Telephones. Some years ago he was promoted to chief engineers for AGT. George and Rosa Bruderer were married in Edmonton and raised a family of two children.

LUCYLE STINSON — nee Bidulock was born on the farm in Ispas, Alberta on the 12th day of June, 1933. Lucyle entered the University of Alberta seeking for a profession in Education. After acquiring her degree of Bachelor of Education she taught school in the County of Two Hills, City of Edmonton schools, district in Halifax and now in Red Deer and Penhold. Lucyle is finishing for her Master in Education and Library Science. Lucyle and Al Stinson were married in Edmonton and raised two boys.

BERTHA CHAPPELLE — nee Bidulock was born on the farm in Ispas, Alberta on the 3rd day of September, 1936. Bertha is very keen for education entered the University and acquired her Registered Nurse and Bachelor of Science degree in nursing. Bertha was hired as an Instructor at the University Hospital. She worked as a nurse in Massachusetts, Ontario Hospitals and got her Master of Science in nursing and research in the University of Hawaii. Now in 1980 she is specializing in cancer and tumor research in small children. Bertha and David Chappelle were married in Edmonton and raised two children.

ADELINE PEAKE — nee Bidulock the youngest of the Bidulock family was born on the farm in Ispas, Alberta on the 31st of October, 1938. After finishing high school Adeline entered the University of Alberta towards a degree in chemistry. At first she was reluctant to go into chemistry as the classes were all boys. Finally she overcame her fears and acquired a degree of Bachelor of Science in Chemistry. She was hired by the Provincial Analyst in Edmonton. Now with the Environment of Canada in Calgary. Adeline and Eric Peake travelled extensively and are interested in mountain climbing. They were to climb some of the mountains in Nepal, north of India and some areas around Mount Everest and some of the mountains in New Zealand.

JOHN SEMENOVICH

by John Bidulock

John Semenovich the oldest in the family of five was born in Boian, in the province of Romania under the government of Austria on 20th day of November the year 1890. They moved to Canada, crossing the Atlantic ocean by boat. The Colsberg encountered very rough sea for three days. They arrived in Halifax in 1902. Their medical check up called that they be vaccinated. They came by train and arrived in South Edmonton then known as Strathcona. After a few days there they came to Hairy Hill with horses and wagon. Shortly after they got settled in the area which is now known as Shepenetz. Their first house was made of logs and a sod roof. In 1904 his mother died; this created very much hardships on the whole family.

John Semenowich (1972).

John would go out hunting by snaring rabbits also using a dry pole which he picked in the bush and put a string on the end of the pole and snared partridges off the tree branches. Later his father, a carpenter, managed to trade his work for a muzzle loader shot gun. John was happy to be able to use it to shoot prairie chickens much better meat for food.

Three of the family, his youngest brother and two sisters, were taken to be cared for by people better off financially. Soon John had to leave home also to go to find work. He worked for farmers with very low pay, so he decided to go out for jobs at coal mines and railway. The mines he worked were at Blairmore (dangerous because of active gas) and Drumheller. He worked on the railways in the Fernie area, Banff and throughout B.C.

He knew the German language and Romania from the old country. He soon picked up the English language without any problem then Ukrainian. He knew how to read and write in the capacity of a grade five student.

While at work he saved money and he decided to come back home to his father's farm and try his luck at farming the land. They managed to train a pair of oxen and in a couple of years cleared and plowed some six acres of land. They sowed the land into wheat. The crop was indeed nice so they hired some one with a binder to cut it. The rest of the work they did themselves. The wheat was threshed with a flail and the chaff was sifted in the wind. Then the wheat was ground into whole wheat flour by stove grinder powered by any one with a capable arm. The flour was roasted to a light brown color then put in boiling water and stirred until thickened into a meal called "Johnny Cake".

The first grocery store was at Whitford and later Duvernay came into being and this was much closer to go and purchase the most essencials as salt, sugar and matches.

While on the farm John picked the know how of carpentry from his father. This was a help to be able to get things in trade for his work such as a calf or later a horse or any type of equipment, but not much cash as people he worked for had no money.

On a few occasions John had to go to Edmonton, to find work and sometimes on land title business. He did not have much money for fare and there were no railways or buses. He would walk all the way to Fort Saskatchewan and pay 50¢ on the train to Edmonton. There were no such things as recreations or sports and games. He felt his best recreation was where he could build a house. In those days they built houses out of hewn logs and shingled roof. Later as time progressed he built a home with lumber then stucco and some with bricks. He built many homes, it would take some time to get the full count of them.

Later he moved out to Lac La Biche to farm, instead he built houses, raised mink and fished some. While in Lac La Biche he was awarded the Senior Citizen Award 1905-1955 Golden Jubilee.

John built himself a modern house in Lac La Biche overlooking the lake and his recreation is fishing and visiting people he knows. He is 90 years of age and is able to drive his car wherever he decides to go.

EUGENE AND MARCELENE BOSSE

by Robt. Bachelet

Eugene and Marcelene Bosse moved to Brosseau in 1934 with 11 of their 15 children, the others having already left home. They farmed in the area for approx-

Bosse family picture taken at Arthur Bosse's wedding, July 15, 1937. Back row: Noe, Evelene, August, Harriet, Emma, Arthur, Leo, Edward. Front row: David, Isadore, Martin, Alice.

imately 5 years before moving on to Plamondon. One of their daughters, Emma, met and married Lawrence Lavallee in 1939.

Eugene Bosse passed away on August 1, 1960, and is buried in Plamondon, Alberta.

Of the 15 children, these have passed away: Ted (Ameada) July 17, 1958; Evelene, February 7, 1955; Noe, November 6, 1964; August, October 4, 1977; Edward, December 10, 1978.

Still with us are Louise, married to Reg Martin of Edmonton; Emma, Mrs. Peter Johnson, of Edmonton; Lucy, Mrs. Leslie Moore of Salt Spring Island, B.C.; Arthur, married to Agnes Hellerud, residing in Edmonton; Harriet, Mrs. George Johnson of Edmonton; Leo, of Castlegar, B.C.; David, married to Stella Gadzuik of Vancouver, B.C.; Isadore, residing in Trail, B.C.; Martin of Vancouver; and Alice wed to Bill DeSmit of Prince George, B.C.

JOHN CHERNIWCHAN

John, son of Speredon and Irena Cherniwchan, was born September 17, 1905 at Wahstao, Alberta, 6 miles north of Bellis. He attended school at Prosvischenia from 1912 to 1916, then Wahstao United Church Mission School until 1919. After that he went farming with his father. In 1926 Speredon died leaving John to take care of his mother and the 8 other children.

In 1938 John bought a store in Bellis in partnership with his cousin, George Cherniwchan. He married Mary Lakusta of Duvernay on November 5, 1939 in the Bellis Greek Orthodox Church, with Rev. Wasylew officiating.

Mary, the daughter of Dmytro and Rachellia Lakusta was born November 7, 1921 at home in Duvernay, NW¼ 17-55-11-W4th. Mary attended Luzan School from 1928 to 1937 acquiring a Grade 8 diploma. Her teachers were Miss May McPherson, Miss Samaka and Mr. Kutt. When she left school Mary worked on the farm with her parents until John came along and she was married.

Wedding of John and Mary Cherniwchan, November 4, 1939 at Bellis with Rev. and Mrs. Wasylew at the Greek Orthodox Church.

John and Mary Cherniwchan in their store in Duvernay with grandaughter Pirnak.

John and Mary made their home in Bellis operating the general store, covering a wide trading area, with four other stores in the hamlet. In August of 1957 they pulled up stakes and rented the John Boychuk store in Duvernay until 1962 when they purchased the business. In 1965 they attached modern living quartes to the store.

Their first daughter, Marion was born January 6, 1941 in the Vilna Hospital and Dr. Eddie in attendance. She married Dave Pirnak, son of William and Helen Pirnak, resides in Lamont. Alberta, and is blessed with two children, Cynthia and Lisa.

Their first son, William, was born in the Vilna Hospital August 4, 1942 with Dr. Svarich in attendance. He married Bonnie Gable, daughter of Leo and Leona Gable, and have Tammy, John and William.

Their second son, Lionel, was born December 9, 1943 in George McDougal Hospital, Smoky Lake, attended by Dr. Dobson. He married Tannia Shepansky, daughter of Metro and Elsie Shepansky, have Pamela and Melanie.

Elizabeth, second duaghter was born Mary 25, 1946 in Smoky Lake Hosptial. She passed away December 20, 1946.

Mary became very active in community organizations: the Two Hills Greek Orthodox Church, the Two Hills Hospital Auxiliary and the Order of the Royal Purple. Mary devotes a lot of time in keeping these organizations active, while John attends the store.

John and Mary have seen a lot of activity along the Saskatchewan River. In 1966 they housed the St. John's Cathedral boys who were on a canoe trip to Winnipeg. These boys stayed in their garage overnight, as it was raining very hard and their tents were wet.

John ready to dispense gas.

In 1967 they were involved in the Centennial Canoe Pageant, when these canoes landed in Duvernay. In 1973 they hosted 6 canoes from Minneapolis, Minnesota who were going on a 5500 mile trip across the continent, from the mouth of the Columbia River in B.C. to the mouth of the St. Lawrence River in Quebec. That same year they

Mary Cherniwchan making Paska (Easter bread) with Cynthia, Lisa Pirnak and Pamela Cherniwchan, 1969.

In 1972 taken with their neighbours. L to R; John Cherniwchan, Mary Marcichiw, Mary, Bill Marcichiw at Duvernay on the banks of the Saskatchewan River.

hosted the Dave Ward group from Edmonton who had started from Rocky Mountain House in Alberta to the Mardi Gras in New Orleans, Louisiana. From these two groups John and Mary received cards all along the way to their destination.

John was very fortunate that a successful operation in 1974 returned his hearing after having been deaf from 1939, and having to wear a hearing aid continuously. He is so thankful to be able to enjoy sounds again.

John celebrated their 25th anniversary in 1964 in Bellis, Alberta, and their 40th in Two Hills Centennial on November 4, 1979. In 1968 John and Mary went to Pine Point, N.W.T. for a long delayed honeymoon.

During all these years they have seen many changes. In 1978 a new bridge was built to span the river and highway 36 was rebuilt.

They have made many friends in the Brosseau-Duvernay-Two Hills area and hope to enjoy them for many more years.

DMYTRO LAKUSTA

by Anne Orfino & Mary Chernichan

Dmytro Lakusta was born 1882 in Zawale village, Ukraine. when he was 2 years old his father died and then his mother remarried, Peter Nickiforuk. They emigrated May 18, 1900, on the SS Assyria with their port of arrival being Halifax. They travelled by train to Winnipeg and then to Edmonton, finally settling down in Pozerville, Alberta. He helped his parents to settle on the homestead before finding employment.

His first job was digging irrigation ditches in Medicine Hat, Alberta, for 10¢ an hour, 10 hours a day, less board and room @ 70¢ a day. He also worked in various coal mines and sawmills at Crow's Nest Pass, Fernie and Frank, B.C. Later he turned a printing machine, by hand, for the Edmonton Bulletin at 10¢ an hour. In 1903 he filed for a homestead in Duvernay — NW 17-55-11-W4th. He kept on working out while he improved the homestead — cutting the brush and breaking the land.

On January 22, 1906 Dmytro married Rachellia Orlecki, at Pozerville. Rachellia, daughter of Nikolai Orlecki and Elena Stoveck, was born in Luzan, Bukovina, Austria and had come with her parents to settle in Duvernay, in 1901.

After their marriage Dmytro and Rachellia lived with his parents about a year, during which time Mike was born. They moved to Edmonton in 1907, where Anne was born, and moved back to the farm in 1908. In the winter Dmytro went working to earn money needed to build a 2-roomed log house, a barn and a shed covered with sheaves, made of hay which Rachellia cut with a scythe. While he was away, she would cut the firewood in the daytime and saw it, in the house, in the evening.

In 1910 they took up farming full-time. Dmytro broke 16 acres of land by hand until he bought 2 oxen which he also used for seeding. Eventually he purchased 3 horses. In 1913, he got his homestead registered with the Department of the Interior, Ottawa. Bill, Mary Jane, and Rose were born at the homestead.

L to R — Mary, Rose, Anne, Rachellia (mother), Bill, Dmytro (father) Lakusta on the homestead In 1945.

Dmytro and Rachellia Lakusta on the homestead in Luzan, Alberta, in 1946.

In 1948 Mr. & Mrs. Dmytro Lakusta moved to Edmonton. He died July 2, 1955 and she passed away August 12, 1973. Both are interred in the Beachmount Cemetery in Edmonton.

They had five children:

Mike married Helen Zacharuk, lives in the Beaverhill Senior Citizens' Home in Lamont, has 4 children.

Anne married John Orfino, lives in Lavoy, has 6 children.

Bill single, lives in Edmonton, took care of his parents until their departure.

Mary married John Cherniwchan, lives in Duvernay, has 3 children.

Rose married Frank Konsorado, lives in Lamont, has 2 children.

There were a couple of highlights in the Lakusta family. They were among the pioneers who established the Luzan School, naming it after Rachellia's home-village in Austria. They were also instrumental in building the Luzan Church which was started, in 1910 by Mr. Domaky and finished in 1911 by Mr. Moisin of Duvernay.

HISTORY OF LAURENTIE AND CATERINA CHRAPKO FAMILY IN CANADA

by Mrs. Dora Chrapko

Laurentie was born on August 4, 1860 and Caterina on October 1, 1868 in Bukowina, Austria. They married in Bukowina. The couple decided to bring their family to this new land called Canada. They boarded a ship in Hamburg, Germany; sixteen days later they arrived in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. From there the family took a train and arrived in Strathcona, N.W.T. which was across the river from Edmonton on July 1, 1901. The family voyaged from there to Hairy Hill, Alberta, by horses and wagon where they homesteaded, 2½ miles north east of town. On their way to the homestead the family remembers travelling through water for almost a mile; the water came into the wagon box — it was so deep.

The Chrapko's lived on that homestead for two years, then sold it to another homesteader for the ten dollars used to register the land with the government. The family moved to another homestead near Pozerville, now known as Two Hills. Recalled by the family are the prices of certain items: bacon was 20¢; eggs were 20¢ a dozen; wheat was 70¢ a bushel; wine sold for 90¢ a gallon if you brought your own container, or $1.00 without it. This was in 1914.

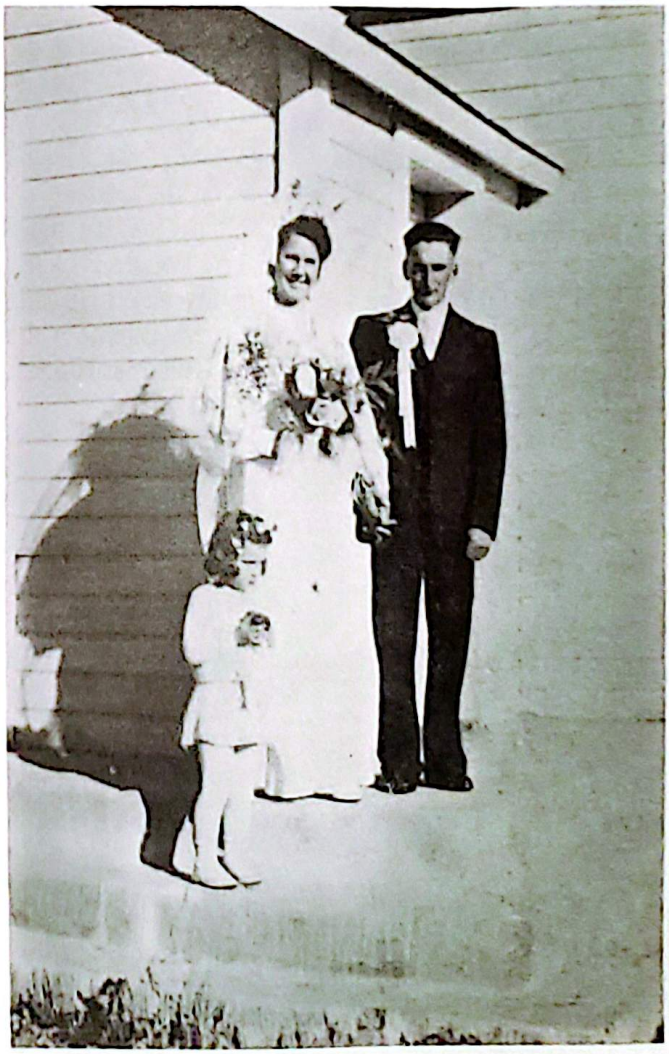
Laurentie and Caterina Chrapko's family consisted of five sons and three daughters. Three sons were born in Bukowina, Austria. At the time of immigration John was nine years old, Vasilie was five and Sam was three. Upon arrival in Edmonton with the train Caterina gave birth to their fourth son, Onufrey. They had another son Nick and three daughters, Martha, Katie and Mary after settling on the homestead.

John and Elizabeth Chrapko at home.

John went to school one and a half years in the old country. Since there were no schools near the homestead Vasilie did not have the good fortune of going to school but was taught to read and write by a gentleman in Bitherine Lake while working, at the age of eighteen. Sam, Mary and Nick went to school in the Two Hills area. Martha and Katie passed away when they were little girls.

(L. to R.) — John (Sam's son' 4 years old.
David (John's son) 7 years old.

John, the oldest son, worked on the homestead and on the railway. He married Elizabeth Severyn, daughter of Mike and Mary Severyn of Ispas, Alberta. They lived in Rannoch district, north of Musidora, Alberta, then moved to Duvernay area. Their last move was to the quarter section presently owned by their youngest son, Mike — SW¼ 15-56-12 W4.

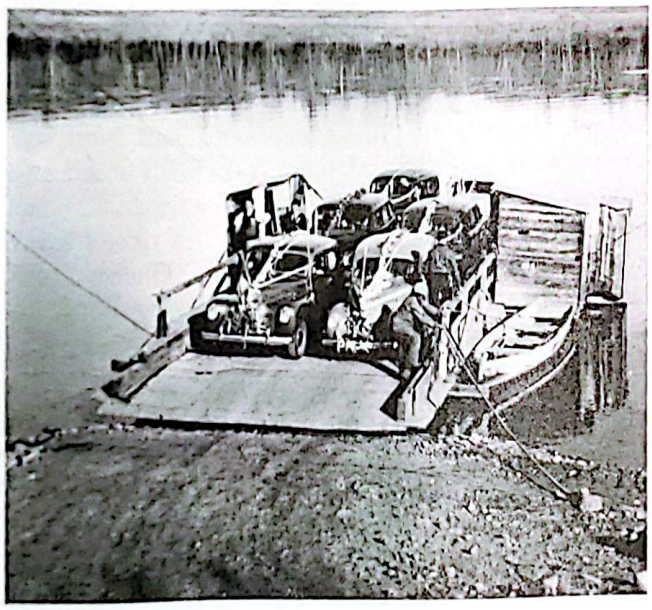


Dave and Dora Chrapko's Wedding — October 14, 1945.

John A. Chrapko was a Two Hills Councillor in the late 1920's and early 1930's. Throughout the years of busy life the couple had time to have and raise a family of five sons and one daughter. Their names in order of birth were: William, Steve, Alex, David, Victoria and Mike. William and Steve left home in search of another style of life. They did not marry and live in other parts of Alberta.

Alex joined the Army and Air Force, studied and got his licenses for electrical and mechanical technology. He returned to Two Hills where he worked at several of the businesses in town. For the last few years he worked on his own on the east end of Two Hills where he had a little shop. In 1978 Alex went into retirement at the Two Hills Senior Citizen's Home until his passing away on February 15, 1979.

David grew up on the family farm where he helped his father farm. David married Dora Homeniuk, daughter of Nick and Mary Homeniuk of Hamlin, Alberta. The couple stayed on the farm, the quarter section next to his father's, on Highway 36 — SE¼ 15-56-12 W4 and NW¼ 10-56-12 W4. They are proud parents of four sons: John, Nick, Ron and Terry. The three oldest are married presenting their parents with two grandsons and three granddaughters. David and Dora moved to Edmonton where they both worked in a hospital. In 1977 they returned to Two Hills where they are still working.



Desjarlais Ferry with David and Dora's wedding cars.

Mrs. D. Rosychuk, Dora chrapko's grandmother, baking bread, in an outdoor oven. It can still be seen from Highway 36 which passes by the farm.

Mike Chrapko

Victoria, only daughter of John Chrapko and Elizabeth Severyn, lived at home until she married Mike Drozsa. The couple moved to several places in Alberta before making their home in Valleyview, Alberta. Throughout these nomadic years they had a family of two sons and two daughters named Jake, John, Diane and Donna.

Mike Chrapko

Mike has lived on the farm SW¼ 15-56-12 W4 where he was born. He has farmed this land from the time he was old enough to work. He never married.

Vasilie Chrapko

Vasilie, the second oldest child of Laurentie and Caterina Chrapko worked on the homestead until he went to work at Bitherine Lake. He worked on the railway and in the coal mines. In 1916 he worked at a railway terminal where he had to build up the pressure in the steam engines before they left for a trip or a haul. Later he returned to the farm where he married Helen. In 1939 Vasilie opened and operated a machine shop in Two Hills. In 1949 he built his school bus from scratch, in a year. Vasilie drove this bus in the Two Hills district for seven years.

1949 School bus built by Vasilie Chrapko.

In this same shop Vasilie built one of the first press iron cutters. It was on display in Swift Current, Saskatchewan, Fair in 1964.

In 1969 Vasilie retired, closing up the shop and turning the farms over to his son Peter.

Vasilie and Helen Chrapko had a family of two sons: Peter and George; five daughters: Mary, Katie, Victoria, Sandra and Martha, all living. The couple are proud grandparents of 23 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. Mrs. Helen Chrapko passed away. Vasilie and his wife, Martha, are living in the Lions' Eventide Homes in Two Hills.

Sam Chrapko

Sam, the third son of Laurentie and Caterina Chrapko, also worked on the farm. In 1914, at the age of 15 years he worked on the Canadian National Railway in Central Alberta. In 1917 he worked on the railroad in Kitscoty, Alberta. Sam was employed in Saskatchewan, digging holes for telephone poles in the summer, and, during harvest he worked on a farm (in 1918). Then he worked in Wolfenden B.C. hauling gravel for the railway. He returned to the farm in Two Hills and married Odakea Cherniwchan in 1925. They farmed SE¼ 15-56-12 and NW¼ 10-55-12 W4. They raised their family of three sons and three daughters: Olga, John, Mary, Mike, Nick and Rose. All the children are living except John; Sam and Odakea Chrapko retired in 1972 turning the farm over to their son, Nick. The couple moved to Vegreville, Alberta where they make their home. They are proud of their 12 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Onufrey Chrapko

Onufrey Chrapko grew up on the farm. He was a priest and repaired sewing machines. He tanned hides and had a mobile unit for repairing harness, travelling from farm to farm. He owned the Duvernay Store now owned by John and Mary Cherniwchan. Onufrey sold this store to Mr. John F. Boychuk and moved to other parts in Alberta. He then married Louise. They have no children and, presently, are living in Innisfail, Alberta.

Mary Theroux

Mary, daughter of Laurentie and Caterina Chrapko, grew up on the farm where she lived until she married Moise Theroux. They farmed NE¼ 28-55-12 until they moved to Plamondon,Alberta. Moïse and Mary had two sons and five daughters: Rose, Olive, Ethel, Lillian are living. Raymond, Eli and Yvonne died while young children.

Nick Chrapko

Nick, the youngest son in the family lived on the farm, before moving to Edmonton where he worked in a garage until he was called into the army, where he was a truck-driving instructor. After his discharge he returned to Two Hills and worked briefly with his brother, Vasilie, in the Machine Shop. Then Nick had a Bulk Station in Duvernay. He married Carrie and moved back to Edmonton where he worked for Cana Construction until he retired in 1975. Nick and Carrie Chrapko raised one son, Larry.

GREGORY CHORNEY AND FAMILY

by Mary Chorney

This story opened in Chronowka, Europe, where Gregory Chorney married Irene Kapitski in the year 1897. Leaving their family behind, they came to Canada by ship in 1913. With them came their four oldest children: Kost, Irene, Martha and Tom who was one year old. They settled on a homestead in the Bellis district.

Gathering of friends at Mr. and Mrs. Alex Zelez's place in 1938.

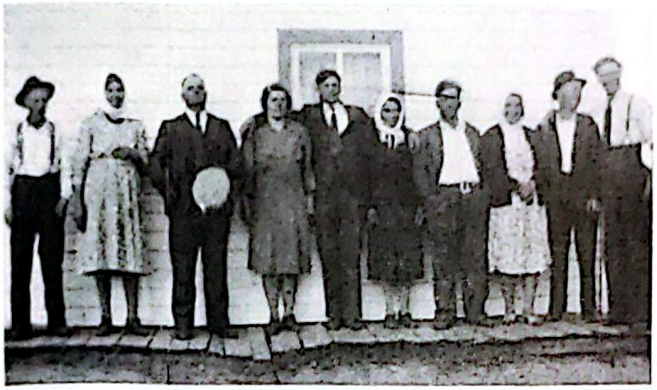
There they had five more children: Bill, John, Steve, Rose and Matt. On this homestead there was nothing but bush and rock. They built a one-room log mud house with a straw roof. The floor was of plastered mud. They cleared the bush and rock and ploughed with a twelve-inch brushbreaker with oxen. Irene Chorney sewed shirts for her children of flour and sugar bags and for a long time the family lived on wild meat. The children who were of school age walked barefooted 3½ miles to Irndale School. In those days there were no roads, only trails. The family got their mail at Mortemore Post Office 3½ miles from home. Times were very hard, land was very poor, and the closest town was 45 miles which was Vegreville or Mundare. Then in 1918 the railroad went through from Edmonton to St. Paul. The closest town then was Bellis or Vilna. In 1926 Gregory Chorney sold the homestead and bought land 5 miles north of Brosseau.

This is Gregory and Irene Chorney's second house on the homestead which was built in 1923, 20 years after they had settled there.

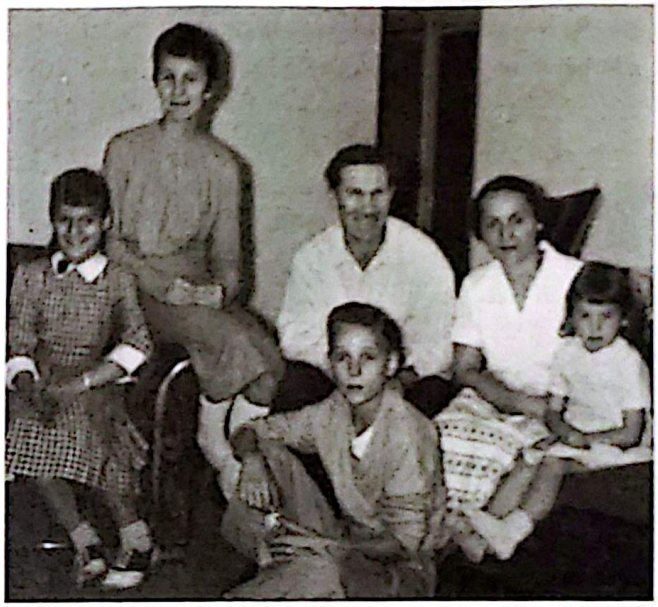
When the family still lived on the homestead at Bellis, Gregory and Irene's oldest son, Kost, was 14 years old when he went to work for a farmer for 4 years in the Shandro district. He brought home all the money he earned to help his parents build a better house. This

house was built 10 years after they first settled on the homestead. When Kost was about 18 years old he went to work in a coal mine in Evansburg, west of Edmonton. His next move was to Willow River, B.C. where he lived and worked in a sawmill until his retirement to Prince George, B.C. with his wife, Lucy. When Lucy died, he came to Edmonton to be closer to his family and he presently resides in a senior citizen's home. In 1979 he was 82 years of age.

Tom and Mary Chorney.



Left to Right — Gregory and Irene Chorney, Mr. and Mrs. Shapka, unknown, Mr. and Mrs. Nick Shapka, Mary and Alex Zelez and Steve Chorney.



L. to R. Sylvia, Betty, Tom and Mary, Patricia and Stanley Chorney (1958).

While Gregory and Irene still lived in Bellis, their daughter, Irene, married Jacob Yarochuk in June of 1918 and in November of that same year they both died during the flu epidemic.

While Gregory and Irene still lived in Bellis, their daughter, Martha, married Peter Knapp. They lived on a farm in Hairy Hill district and later moved to a farm in Ranfurly district. They had three children: Mike, Mary and Janie. Peter Knapp died in 1960. Martha retired and now lives in Edmonton. Their son, Mike, and his family live on the farm, his parent's homeplace. Their daughters, Mary and Janie, both live in Edmonton.

After attending Irndale School for six years, Gregory and Irene's son, Tom, went to work for a local farmer for a salary of $10.00 a month. Later on when things were a little easier, Tom learned to play the accordian and in 1934 he formed an orchestra with his brothers: Bill on the banjo, John on the violin, Steve on guitar, and brother-in-law Jim Chamberlain on drums. For 14 years Chorney's Orchestra entertained people in the Duvernay and surrounding areas. Tom enjoyed baseball and played for the Champlain team for 12 years and during part of that time the manager of the team was former Lieutenant Governor Ralph Steinhauer. In 1935 Tom settled on a farm 2 miles from Duvernay. Then on October 2nd, 1938 he married Mary Chamberlain and lived on that same farm for 12 years. There they had two daughters and a son: Betty, Stanley and Sylvia. In 1949 Tom and Mary sold the farm and went into the hotel business in Entwistle. Their next move from there was to Edmonton where they had another daughter, Patricia. Tom then went to work for Poole Construction as a carpenter. While working there he was fortunate to see many places up north. Poole sent carpenters by plane to Inuvik, Uranium City, Cambridge Bay, and Wabaska. After ten years in Edmonton the family moved to a farm in the Lavoy district where Tom operated his own construction business. At that time their daughter, Betty, was already married and resided in Edmonton with her family. She married Art Hill on August 14th, 1959 and they had a son and a daughter, Richard and Susan. During the time they resided in Edmonton Art worked in the sports department at The Bay, and at another store in Jasper Place. Betty worked 4 years for the Provincial Government in Forestry, then 8 years with Alberta Health Care. Their next move was to Victoria, B.C. where Art owned his own sports shop. After selling his shop, he became manager in the sports department at The Bay. Betty worked for the B.C. Motor Vehicle Branch for 4 years. Betty died October 23rd, 1975 at the age of 34 years. Their daughter, Susan, resides in Ontario. Art and Richard reside in Victoria, B.C. Tom and Mary's son, Stan, lived at home until graduating from Grade 12. His last three years of school were in Vegreville, Alberta, and during those three years he helped his dad in the construction business. He then moved to Edmonton and got a job with General Paint where he worked in the warehouse. Stan worked his way up to manager and at present he is still with General

Paint. Stan married Anne Nielsen on August 15th, 1970, and they have a daughter and a son, Diane and Michael. Anne worked in different departments at Woodward's in Edmonton and at present is still employed there. Stan and Anne reside in their own home in Edmonton. Tom and Mary's daughter, Sylvia, lived at home until she finished school. She then married Art Poulin on April 30th, 1966. At that time they resided in Vegreville where their son, Kelly, was born. Art worked as an auto body mechanic at Raydon Motors. Their next move was to Edmonton where their daughter, Sherry, was born and

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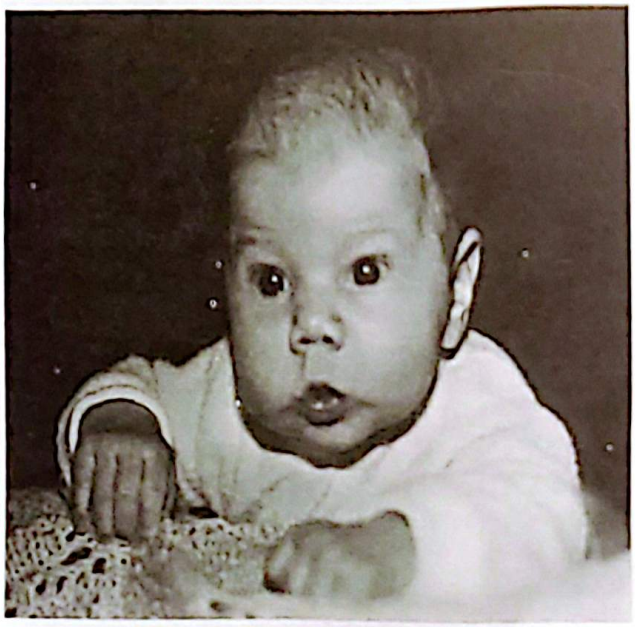
From L. to R. Sylvia Poulin (Chorney) and her family Kelly, Sherry and Arthur Poulin.

Stan Chorney and his wife Anne and their daughter Diane.

Glen and Sylvia Chorney's wedding day May 5th, 1979.



Stan and Anne's baby boy Michael.

Sylvia and Glen Johnsons baby girl Lana 1 day old.

Tom and Mary Chorney's house on the farm in Duvernay built in 1935. Mary and Betty. George Chamberlain standing in front.

Front row L. to R. — Suzan Hill, Betty Hill, Tom and Mary Chorney, Kelly, and Sylvia Poulin and Richard Hill. Back row — Art Hill, Stan Chorney, Patricia Chorney and Art Poulin.

where Art still worked as an auto mechanic. Then the family moved to Victoria, B.C. where Art had the same job. Sylvia worked as a clerk at the Bay in Victoria from 1973 to 1975. Art died on January 5th, 1975, at the age of 27 years. Sylvia's next move was back to Edmonton where she worked and became manageress in the stock department at Zeller's. She is presently working at Woodward's on the food floor. On May 5th, 1979 Sylvia married Glen Johnson and they have one daughter, Lana, born March 9th, 1980. Glen works in Edmonton at the Alcan Smelter plant. He came to Edmonton from Gainsborough, Saskatchewan, where his parents have resided for many years. Glen and Sylvia reside in their own home in Edmonton. Tom and Mary's daughter, Patricia, lived at home until she graduated from Grade 12 at Vegreville. She then attended N.A.I.T. in Edmonton for 2 years to further her education. There she took secretarial technology. Patricia is presently a clerk stenographer at the Court House in Vegreville where she has been working for the past 5½ years. She is 25 years of age and single. Tom and Mary Chorney retired in Vegreville in 1974 where they presently reside.

In June of 1942 Gregory and Irene's son, Bill, married Mary Shapka. They lived on a farm about 4 miles north of Two Hills. There they had two children: Kenny and Joyce. After selling the farm, the family moved to Edmonton where Bill owned and operated a car sale business. While in Edmonton they had two more children: Peggy and Judy. In 1976 Bill passed away and his family still reside in Edmonton.

Gregory and Irene's son, John, married Anne Jacura and they have two sons: David and Bob. They live in Edmonton presently and have lived there for many years. John owned his own truck and was in the trucking business. John and Anne are now retired.

Gregory and Irene's son, Steve, married Sadie Shapka. They have four children: Eddie, Shirley, Linda and Jimmy. They live in Edmonton where Steve worked many years for a glass company and where he now works for Macleod's Store.

Gregory and Irene's daughter, Rose, married Bill Skoreyko. They have two sons: Bill and Bob. Rose's husband, Bill, was a mechanic and Rose is a hairdresser. The family all presently reside in Edmonton.

Gregory and Irene's son, Matt, married Sophie Smerchinski. They have two children: Jeffrey and Ronny. They live in Edmonton where Matt had a car sales business for many years.

SAMUEL AND MARY MAHARA

by Mary Chorney

This story opens in the Ukraine. Mary, the only daughter born Mary 24th, 1900 to Samuel and Mary Mahara, came to Canada in 1909 with her parents and one brother, William. They left all their family behind. They took up residence on a homestead at Morecambe, Alberta where two more brothers were born, Richard and Nick. Samuel and Mary built a two room, mud log house. It took many years to clear the land of bush and rocks. Samuel broke and worked the land with oxen. They later had horses to work with. The only transportation in those days was by wagon or buggy.

Samuel's talent was that he knew how to play the violin and he made his few extra dollars playing for weddings. Samuel's wife, Mary, was a good cook and she cooked for weddings. She didn't earn much in those days but every dollar helped.

Back at that time people travelled as far as 40 to 50 miles with wagons and with sleighs in the winter.

Mary Mahara died at the old age home in St. Albert in 1950 at the age of 73 years. Her husband, Samuel, died in the Two Hills hospital in 1958 at the age of 92 years.

Samuel and Mary Mahara's daughter, Mary, in 1914 married Ed Chamberlain, an Irishman, who was 32 years her senior. They took up residence north-west of Two Hills, Alberta on a small unbroken piece of land, the homestead. They lived in a two room, mud log house.

Front row L. to R. — Mike Fuyarchuk, Mary Chamberlain, Nick Mahara, Metro Gregory and Rosie Mazar. Second row — Bill Mazar, John Sorrochan, Sam Mahara, Ed and Mary Chamberlain who is holding baby Bill Chamberlain and Jim Chamberlain. Back row — Mrs. Fuyarchuk, Mrs. Fillmon Fedoruk holding baby Mary Mahara, Mrs. Trifon Fedoruk, Mrs. Metro Gregory, Mary and John Sorrochan.

This is the house built on Chamberlain homestead in 1920.

Samuel and Mary Mahara with daughter-in-law Kathy Mahara.

L. to R. — Richard Mahara, Kathy Mahara, Sharon Mahara on lap, Eilleen Mahara on lap Sandra. Florence and Bill Mahara.

Left to Right — George Chamberlain, Mike Zelez, Mick Mahara, Joe Chamberlain, Richard Mahara.

There they had seven children to Ed's death at the age of 61, in the year 1929. These children were: Georgie who died an infant in the year of his birth; Jim born 1917 and who died in 1957 at the age of 39 years; Mary; Bill; Hazel; Joe; and George.

Alex Zelez was born in Poland on February 24th, 1902. He came to Canada alone, leaving his family (parents John and Katie, and three sisters, Katie, Anna and Jessie) in Paramish, Poland. On his arrival to Canada in 1926, he took up residence with his benefactor, Mike Samoil, on a farm south of Two Hills and later was employed by Karton Ewasiuk, a farmer with property just west of the Chamberlain homestead.

Mary Mahara-Chamberlain and Alex Zelez were married on November 21st, 1930. From this union came seven more children. These children wee: Michael, Lillian, Ollie, Annette, Raymond who died an infant in the year of his birth, Sharon and Sandra.

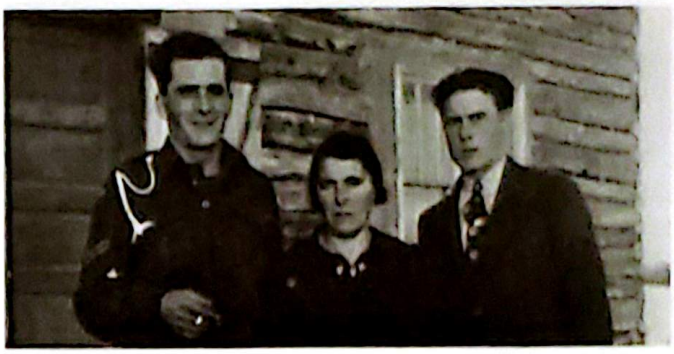
The 30's were hard times, depression years, and Mary and Alex worked very hard to bring up this big family. In those days the children were all born at home with just a midwife to help deliver them. The children that were of school age walked 2½ to 3½ miles to school barefooted. It was one day in 1930 when it snowed early in the fall. That day Jim, Mary and Bill Chamberlain walked home 2½ miles from school in the snow barefooted.

In the 20's and 30's Indians in the community came often and begged for food. The Zelez family gave them any potatoes, milk, bread and eggs they could spare. They camped approximately a mile from the Chamberlain homestead.

In 1943, the Chamberlain homestead was sold and a larger farm was purchased two miles east on which the family was residing where Sharon and Sandra were born. Mary and Alex retired from this farm in 1964 to take up residence in Two Hills. Mary Zelez was very talented. To earn her few dollars in her younger years she sewed clothes for many people, for herself and for all her children; she also sewed coats for the family. She painted easter eggs for all the families in the community. To earn extra money she even took a job to plaster the inside of a big house for Jerry Lapierre. Her daughter, Mary, mixed the mud for her. This was a very hard job since she had to mix it with her bare feet. It took one week to finish that job. Later in years, Mary Zelez cooked for weddings and other functions and for many years she made rugs for very many people. all her life she worked hard and never complained. Mary Zelez, a very dear mother, wife, and grandmother died March 7th, 1977 at the age of 76. Alex resides in Two Hills.

Mary Zelez's three brothers also worked hard to break the land with their father and mother, Samuel and Mary Mahara. Later when the boys went out on their own, William and his wife Florence owned a filling station in North Battleford, Saskatchewan. After selling this business, they owned a hotel in Keremeos, B.C. Florence worked hard along with her husband in every business they owned. At the time of William's death on February 8th, 1972, they owned a hotel in Okanagan Falls, B.C. At present Florence resides in Okanagan Falls.

Alex and Mary Zelez.



L. to R. — Jim Chamberlain, Mary Zelez and Bill Chamberlain.

Mary Zelez's brother, Richard, drove a grey hound bus in his younger years. Later he was manager of Greyhound Bus Lines until his retirement. Richard and his wife Eileen have two children, Sharon and Sandra. Richard gets pleasure out of playing his violin. Richard and Eileen also own a cabin at Carlyle Lake resort in Saskatchewan. They both reside in Regina, Saskatchewan.

Mary Zelez's brother Nick served in the Army in Scotland for 4½ years, from 1940 to 1945. For many years he is the secretary treasurer of Veteran's Affairs in Ottawa, Ont. and he will be retiring in June of 1980. Nick and his wife Kathy reside in Ottawa.

Mary Zelez's son, Jim Chamberlain, left home very young and worked for many local farmers. Later in years he was a building contractor. He served in the army between 1939 and 1945 with the Royal Canadian Engineers and was soon promoted to lance-corporal and later to the rank of corporal. While in the army he met Theresa Gratton and married her on November 23rd, 1942.

They lived in the Duvernay district for some time. Jim and Theresa had three children: Shirley, Mary Anne and Margaret Rose. When Jim resided in Edmonton, he worked for Poole Construction as a carpenter. Jim died in 1957 at the age of 37 years. Theresa is now married to Al Kaufman; they have a daughter, Fay. Al and Theresa reside in Calgary.

Mary Zelez's daughter, Mary Chambelain, lived at home to help her mother and dad. She married Tom Chorney on October 2nd, 1938 and they settled on a farm 2 miles from Duvernay. There they had two daughters and a son; Betty, Stanley and Sylvia. In 1950 Tom and Mary sold the farm and went into the hotel business at Entwistle. Their next move from there was to Edmonton where they had another daughter, Patricia. Tom then went to work for Poole Construction as a carpenter and he was fortunate to see many places up north. Poole sent carpenters by plane to Inuvik, Uranium City, Cambridge Bay, and Wabaska. At that time Tom's brother-in-law, George Chamberlain, was also sent to Inuvik since George also worked for Poole Construction as a carpenter. After 10 years in Edmonton, the family moved to a farm in the Lavoy district where Tom operated his own construction business. Then in 1974 Tom and Mary retired to Vegreville where they presently reside.

Mary Zelez's son, Bill Chamberlain, lived at home and helped his mother and dad until he was taken to serve in the army overseas between 1939 and 1945. When the war ended, he came back home to his parents. Later on he bought a farm ½ mile north of his parent's place in the Duvernay district. There were no buildings on this farm, just bush. He worked hard to brush and break this land. Later when he built a house on this farm, he married Leona Robinson on October 18th, 1948. Here their son and daughter were born, Richard and Cheryl. Their next move from there was to Merrit, B.C. where Bill operated his own construction business. His next move from there was to Terrace, B.C. where he now resides and is still in the construction business. Leona is now married to Eric Krause and they reside in Vernon, B.C. Bill and Leona's daughter, Cheryl, died December 25th, 1976 at the age of 22 years. Their son, Richard, and his wife and two children also reside in Vernon, B.C.

Mary Zelez's daughter, Hazel Chamberlain, left home quite young. She worked in Edmonton as a cook in different restaurants. While working in Edmonton she met George Johnston and married him on February 11th, 1950. Hazel and George have three children: Raymond, Sandra and Linda. George was a stucco and plaster contractor. He died August 26th, 1975. Hazel worked at the Royal Alex Hospital in Edmonton for many years and at present it still employed there. Hazel resides in Edmonton.

Mary Zelez's son, Joe Chamberlain, also left home quite young. At that time he went to Giscome, B.C. and worked in a sawmill. While in B.C. he married Irene Makowichuk and they have three children: Elaine, Brian and Cindy. During the summer, for many years now, Joe and Irene operate their own summer resort at Babine Lake, B.C. In the winter they reside at Burn's Lake, B.C. Joe is quite a sportsman — he likes hunting and fishing.

Mary Zelez's son, George Chamberlain, also left home quite young and went to Prince George, B.C. where he operated his own construction business. He also worked in a sawmill at Giscome, B.C. While in Prince George, he married Eileen O'Ryley and they had four children: Darrell, Earl, Deborah and Trevor. At one time George also had his own construction business at McLeese Lake, B.C. where his daughter Shannon resides with her mother Janice. George now resides in Edmonton and is still contracting.

Four generations L. to R. — Betty Hill, Mary Zelez, Suzan Hill and Mary T. Chorney.

Six Zelez sisters; Front row L. to R. — Lillian Krawchuk, Sandra Mooney; Back row — Mary Chorney, Hazel Johnson, Ollie Forster and Annette Ball.

Mary and Alex Zelez's son, Mike Zelez, lived at home and helped his mother and father on the farm until he got his own farm one mile south of his parent's place. He then married Olga Krawchuk on June 14th, 1952. They farmed in the Duvernay district for over 20 years and during that same time, Mike also worked at the Duvernay Chemical Plant. They have three children: Lorraine, Elaine and Jane. After selling his farm, Mike moved to Peachland, B.C. There he married Jane Hasen. Jane works in an office and Mike works on the town's irrigation system. They both enjoy Peachland very much.

Mary and Alex Zelez's daughter, Lillian, helped her mother and father on the farm when she was young. While she was still single, she worked at the Vegreville Hospital. On November 13th, 1951 she married Nick Krawchuk. When Nick was still single, he worked in a

plaining mill at Giscome, B.C. Then after their marriage, Nick worked a short time in a sawmill north of Burns Lake, B.C. After that, they settled on a farm in the Plain Lake district and are still residing there. Besides farming, Nick works part time for the County of Two Hills. Nick and Lillian have two daughters: Violet and Jane, who are both presently working in Vegreville.

Mary and Alex Zelez's daughter Ollie when very young worked for a local farmer at $8.00 a month, she also worked for a teacher and her husband at Innisfree in 1952 for $30.00 a month, she then came to Edmonton and worked as a waitress at the C.N.R. station for $14.50 a week, she married Alex Delawski on June 3rd, 1953 and resided in Yellowknife for 2 years. They had 3 sons.

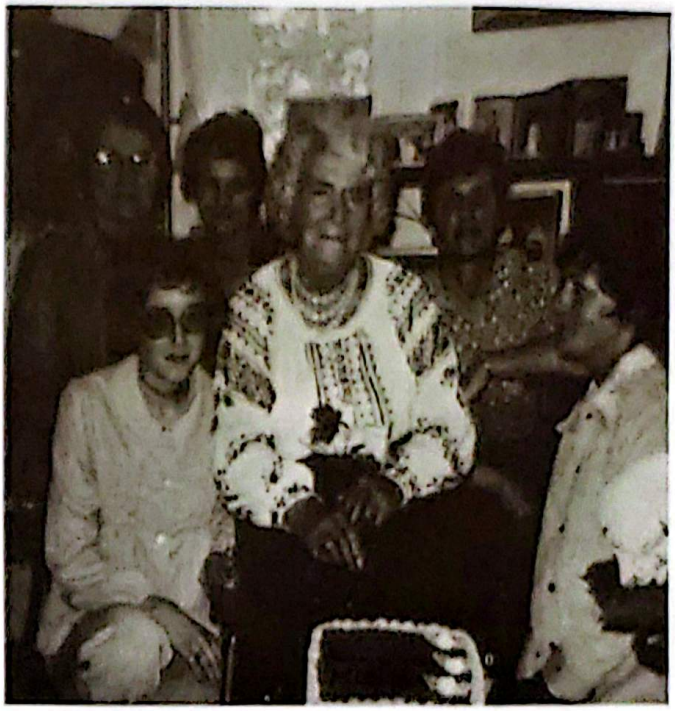
Garry, Jimmy and Dale. Ollie is now married to Donald Forster. Ollie and Don both work for Graham Realty, Ollie for 7 years and Donald for 5 years. Previous to being in real estate, Donald served 6 years in the Royal Canadian Navy and took his training in Halifax, Nova Scotia. He also sold life insurance with Montreal Life for 7 years. Donald has four children by his previous marriage: Donald, Michael, Deborah and.

Mary and Alex Zelez's daughter, Annette, when sixteen years of age worked in the Hotel Cafe at Two Hills. At seventeen years of age she married Nick Elkow on September 30th, 1955. During their marriage they lived in many different places and had five children: Barry, Belinda, Tammy, Shelly and Tracy. Their marriage dissolved after 10 years and Annette was on her own to raise and provide for the children. For five years she worked in a cocktail bar as a waitress in Edmonton and for six years she was a painter. She then married Frank Ball. by his previous marriage, Frank has two daughters: Barb and Beverly. Frank is a water and sewer contractor. he owns and fly's his own plane. Frank, Annette and family presently reside in Edmonton.

Mary and Alex Zelez's daughter, Sharon, lived at home until she married Paul Eleniak on August 11th, 1962. Paul and Sharon had no children. Sharon is now married to Bob Lee. Bob is with a taxi service in Vancouver and Sharon works in a restaurant. They both reside in Vancouver.

Mary and Alex Zelez's youngest daughter, Sandra,

Sharon Lee Zelez



Front row L. to r. — Violet Krawchuk, Mary Zelez, Annette Ball, Back row — Mary chorney, Sylvia Poulin and Lillian Krawchuk.

lived at home, then when quite young went to work in Vegreville at the Prince Edward Hotel. Her next move was to Edmonton where she worked at the Olympic Grill and Pat's Lunch. There she met Pat Mooney. She then went to Niagara Falls, Ontario where she worked in a summer resort with her friend. When she returned to Edmonton from Niagara Falls, she married Pat Mooney, then worked at Tamblyn Drugs. Pat at that time was selling real estate for H.R. Kellough Realty Ltd. He later became branch manager. Before Mr. Kellough passed away, Pat and one of the existing partners purchased Kellough Realty. At present, Pat is the President and General Manager. Pat and Sandy have three children: Coulette, Christopher and Andrea. The family resides in Edmonton.

WILLIAM CHUDYK

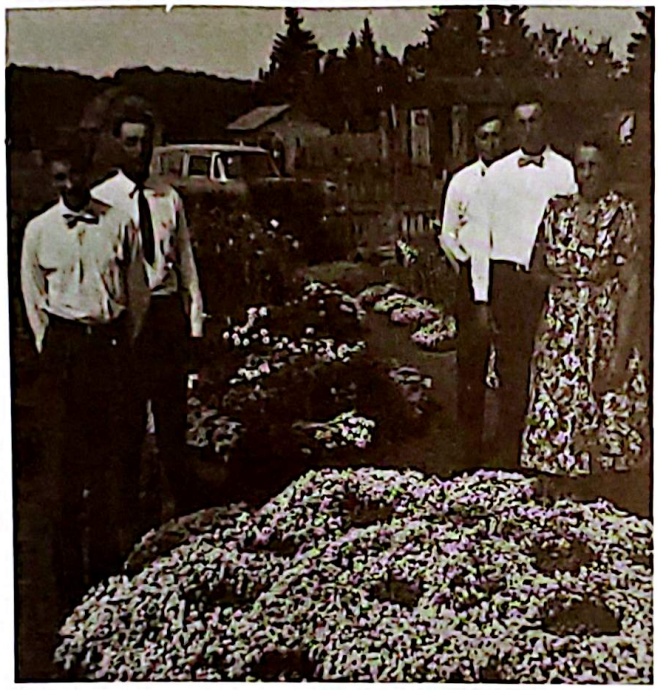
by Mrs. Frances Chudyk

Andrew (of Bowbury, Austria) and Talka (of Belivichi, Austria) Chudyk left Austria on April 3, 1900 and arrived in Edmonton on May 10. They went to Chipman where they had relatives and friends. William was born January 15, 1907 in Chipman and attended school from 1915-1921 at Livew School, Chipman.

Theodore Welysycczuk (Weleschuk) was from Tryeushivcki, Austria and Rosalia Kaschyshyn from Slobitha, province Chortkiv, Austria. They came with their parents to Canada, on the same boat, arriving in Halifax May 22, 1897, on to Edmonton, and then settling in the Wostok area. On June 15, 1908 they were married. Frances was born May 9, 1913 and attended school from 1920-1927.

In October 1933 William and Frances were married in the St. Nicholas Church in St. Michael, Alberta. They

l to r — Victor, Eugene, Mike, Frances Chudyk (mother) Harry, William Chudyk (father) near their first house in Duvernay in 1957.



Flower garden in 1960. At left are Eugene and father, at right are Mike, Harry and mother.

farmed their own land in Chipman until 1949, when they sold out and bought NE¼ 28-55-12-W4th and fraction of SE¼ 33-55-12-W4th from Albert and Daisy Didier. In 1950 with Frances and the boys he settled in Duvernay. This farm is on the south side of the North Saskatchewan River, 1½ miles west of the bridge. There was a trail through the bush and along the second bank they could follow with horses to get their mail and groceries from the store in Duvernay.

That same year, the boys, Mike, Eugene and Victor were bussed to the St. Laurent School in Brosseau. The bus did not come to the house to pick them because the road conditions were not always the best. They had to walk 1½ miles to the corner. On a snowy morning they met a bear coming toward them, so, they ran back home.

Bears often visited the Chudyk farm. One day a big bear was rummaging amongst the buildings. Another time one of the dogs brought a dead cub to the house. There is much bush and a large muskeg on this farm — an ideal place for bears to live.

Mr. & Mrs. Chudyk are great gardeners with green thumbs. In the summertime their yard is a showplace — flowers of every kind, shape and color in various arrangements adorn the place.

PAUL ALBERT COUTU AND FAMILY

by Their Son Hector Coutu

Dad was born at Lorette Manitoba on October 26th, 1872. His father, Pierre Henri Coutu married Marie Catherine Lagimodiere on July 22nd, 1862 in St. Boniface Manitoba. She was the first cousin of Louis Riel Jr. They operated a butcher shop in Winnipeg where the city hall is today till 1872, then they moved to a homestead in Lorette, Manitoba where my dad was born. Later they moved to St. Laurent, Manitoba. They had a family of twenty children. Pierre Henri was fairly well off but with such a large family, dad decided that his future would be pretty dim around home, so he went to work for his Uncle at Walla Walla, Washington, U.S.A. in 1891. He worked there till 1901. Wages were not too good, so he decided to go and look for greener pastures. He came back to Canada and got a job in a gold mine at Nelson, B.C. He worked there till February 1905 when he quit and came to Edmonton. There he bought a team of black percheron mares, which were supposed to be in foal (but as he found out later that they were not) for $500.00. He bought a new McBain wagon, box, sleigh, stove and other supplies.

On the 2nd of April he took off for Brosseau by wagon, and got to Lamoureux the first day and camped at a French Canadian's place. There he had to unload his wagon and use the sleigh, because as it happened it was a late spring and there was too much snow for his wagon. The next day he camped at a German's place between Bruderhiem and Star. The following day he made it close to where Hairy Hill is today and spent the night at a Ukrainian's farm. As you can see there was quite a variety of settlers, but no matter where you stopped nobody locked their doors.

He was fortunate, when he came to Duvernay, the ice was still on the river and strong enough to carry his load, so he was able to make it across to Brosseau the same day. At Edmond Brosseau's store he replenished his supplies and met Arthur Drolet a local homesteader. Mr. Drolet told him that the S.W. 24-56-12-W4th was still available for homesteading but it was mostly all spruce trees and was situated on the north shore of Brosseau Lake, across the lake from his home.

The next morning Mr. Drolet took dad out to see the vacant land. It was an ideal place for stock because there was lots of shelter and water available. He liked the place very much, even if there was going to be lots of work involved.

The next day he walked to the land office at Saddle Lake and was lucky to find that this parcel of land was not applied for yet. So he paid his $10.00 for his homestead entry and went back home a happy man.

As he found out that the homesteading regulation of 1905 permitted any male over 18 years of age, or any widow could obtain a quarter section of land for $10.00. They had to erect a dwelling on this land and reside there for at least six months a year for three years. During this time they had to bring 15 acres under cultivation.

As an alternative, they were able to live in the district, but off the land, and bring 30 acres under cultivation.

If the land was better suited for ranching, the prospective homesteader could fence 8 acres and maintain 20 horses or cattle, instead of breaking the land.

At the end of three years, if the homesteader fulfilled all the regulations he was given a free title to the quarter. To build his cabin he was free to use any timber on his land. If this was not sufficient, he could obtain from crown land an additional 3 thousand feet of lumber, two thousand poplar fence rails, five hundred fence posts and all the dry timbers needed for fuel, all for a 25¢ permit.

In a very short time dad had an 18 by 18 log cabin built with the help of his neighbors. by fall he had a log barn, that held five teams of horses and one other building used as a storehouse built. He also dug a well close to the house. He had also cleared a small patch of land ready to plant a garden the following spring.

When spring came he remodeled his log cabin. He took the dirt roof off and recovered it with lumber and tar paper. He also built a 10 by 18 addition to be used as a kitchen, and put in a lumber floor all over the house from logs he cut and lumber sawed at Florien Paradis's sawmill across the lake. The only factory made furniture in the house were a kitchen stove, a cast iron heater and a bed spring which was fastened to the wall at one end and sitting on a wooden frame at the other.

Paul Albert Coutu and Emilia Theroux wedding picture on July 6th, 1906.

After doing such a good job of remodeling he decided it was time to get married, so on July 6th, 1906 he married Emilia Theroux. My mother used to say it was a beautiful place amongst the spruce trees, but lonesome in the summer, because they would never see anyone unless they came to visit. The main trail to St. Paul Des Metis was only half a mile away but they couldn't see anything on account of thick stand of spruce trees. In winter it was different. The traffic used to go across Brosseau Lake and the travellers would stop for dinner or to spend the night. Mother would make them some hot tea and warm up their frozen food on the stove. We would sit wide-eyed while they emptied their grub box on the table like a salesman displaying their products. Sometimes they would give us a stick of gum for our good behavior.

The winter of 1906-7 was one of the coldest on record. Many settlers lost stock, but dad didn't have much yet and had lots of room in the barn to keep whatever stock he had out of the cold. So he was lucky not to have lost any.

Mr. & Mrs. Albert Coutu with Emile, Harvy, Henry and Odelie. Hector was the baby on his mother's knees. (1913)

The winter of 1917-18 was the winter of the outbreak of the spanish flu and many settlers were stricken by the disease and many lives were lost. We were fortunate not to have got it. The Richelieu Hotel in Brosseau and the Riverview Hotel in Duvernay were used as hospitals and Dr. Hardy cared for the not too sick ones there. Dad was kept busy taking the more serious ones to the Vegreville hospital. Many died before they got there.

In the summer of 1918 we moved in our new 11 room lumber frame house. It was quiet a change for mother to move from her two room log cabin with her eight children to this new spacious house. Many house parties were held at home after that.

The winter of 1918-19 started in early October and

Paul Albert Coutu's first homestead and log shack built in 1905 and large 11 room house built in 1918. Picture taken in 1930.

never let up till late April. It caught everybody unprepared. Very little threshing was done. Feed went up to $100.00 a ton, when you could get it. Dad had a fair size heard at that time and like most of the local farmers had to buy feed wherever he could get it. He was fortunate enough to buy a field of oat bundles in stooks across the river in the Ispas district about seven miles from home. I remember he used to leave before daylight with Adelard Ouelette who was working for him at the time, with two teams of horses. When they got out to the fields they had to dig the bundles out of three feet of snow. Everytime they dug out one stook, they were eight bundles closer to completing their load, which held at least 400 bundles. They often came back late at night with only part of their loads, wet and cold after working in the snow all day. Maybe it was a blessing to the horses that the loads were not fully loaded because the roads were almost impassible at times. Often they would get stuck and had to hook both teams on one load to get out. Some had straw tached roof on their buildings and would resort to feeding that to their starving animals in order to save them. Thousand of cattles were lost that year.

Till 1925 dad was making his living from ranching and had his cattle grazing on the open C.P.R. land surrounding home. That year the C.P.R. sold most of the land it owned in the area, which consisted of over a quarter of the land in the district. Dad bought three quarters at three dollars an acre on easy terms.

He had to cut down his cattle herd, due to shortage of pasture land, which would cut down his yearly income. To make up for the lose, he started breaking land for grain farming. The following year the railroad came to Two Hills, giving him only eight miles to haul his grain to market, which encouraged him to break more of his native pature.

In 1926 he broke over one hundred acres with eight horses pulling a 22 inch breaking plow, which ended in disaster. These horses pulling this plow were quite wild and the teamsters lost control of them. They broke loose and took off across the rough breaking making a mess of the harness, equipment and killing two of the horses. That put an end to the breaking operation for that year.

The following year he bought his first tractor, a Fordson 10-20 tractor, which cost $610.00. One thing for sure that tractor never did run away, because the 22 inch breaking plow was a good load for it and it could only plow at two miles an hour.

He bought his first threshing machine in 1927, a 22 inch Humming Bird Seperator. He harvested a good crop that fall and sold it for $1.25 a bushel.

The next year he bought a bigger tractor, an 18-36 two cylinder Hart Parr and a 32 inch Red River Threshing machine (full price ($3200.00).

Dad bought his first car in 1919, a model T Ford, which cost him $690.00. From that time till his retirement he always owned one and never had an accident.

When the hard times hit in 1930, we had it hard like the rest of the farmers but we always had plenty to eat, lots of peoples didn't have it as lucky.

In 1930 we had a good crop and he could of sold it for $1.15 cash for his wheat but at that time it was open market and the elevator man told him to hold it because it would go up later. By spring the price had went down to 37¢ a bushel and he reluctantly decided to sell as that was going to settle all his debts of the previous year. He felt good to have sold at that time because the price went down to 22¢ a bushel at the local elevator.

That same fall he was offered 12¢ a pound for his steers from Mr. Douglas the cattle buyer in Two Hills, but would not sell them. Three years after he loaded two carloads of steers, some over 2000 pounds and took them personally to St. Paul, Miniapolis, U.S.A. He cleared 5¢ a pound, much less than what he could of got for them three years before, but the ones who sold locally were worse off, such as Mr. Pasniak from Hairy Hill who sold 27 heads for $500.00 (less than 2¢ a pound) Dad made good compared to the cattle sold locally that year.

In 1942 dad retired in St. Paul, selling his farm to his son Henry. While being in the Brosseau district he served his community well. He was chairman or trustee for the Champlain School District #1776 for most of the time it was operating, (from 1908 till 1938). He was councillor for the Champlain Municipal District #544 from its formation in 1909 till 1925.

Back row, left to right — Rene, Hector, Adelard, Lawrence. Middle row — Harvy, Arthur, Lucy, Yvonne, Roger, Henry. Front row — Lorette, Odelie, (Mother) Emilia, (Father) Paul Albert, Emile and Alphonse. (1950)

Grandma Coutu with Hilda and Emile Coutu and son Albert in 1967.

Dad passed away in St. Paul on March 31st, 1953 and Mom passed away on July 17th, 1971. They had 15 children; Emile, Odelie, Henry, Harvy, Hector, Arthur, Adelard, Roger, Laurence, Lucy, Rene, Alphonse, Yvonne, Laurette and Rudolph who died as a baby.

Emile married Germaine Bouchard on November 27th, 1934. He bought the S.E. 10-55-12-W4th from Philip Lakusta which was first homesteaded by Joe Gaulin in 1903. He farmed there for about 20 years. They had one son Donald from his first marriage. In 1959 he married Hilda Krause. After his marriage he moved to St. Paul and farmed there till he passed away in 1969. Hilda pre-deceased him in 1967 and left one son Albert as a nine year old orphan.

Donald married Marguerite Namespetro in 1958 and lives in Lacombe, Alberta and is an employee of Alberta Crop Insurance. In his younger years he played baseball and is still an ardent sport fan. Since he retired as an active player he does lots of umpiring as a side line. He was one of the first to join the Alberta Umpire Association, when it was first organized. Donald and Marguerite have three sons; Blaine, Darrel and Robert. They also took in Albert and put him through school, when he was left as an orphan at age of 9 years. They treated him as one of their own and I am sure Albert will appreciate that as time goes by.

Raymond, George, Denise, Edgar and Maurice with their mother and dad Odelie and Julien Gervais in 1951.

Odelie married Julien Gervais on December 29th, 1931 and lived in the Craigand area. Julien farmed and trapped as a sideline, till his retirement in Lac La biche in 1966. He still has his own registered trap line, but goes farther north, along Grist and Winnifrid Lake. Today the area he traps in is no longer isolated because there is roads and gas wells all over his trap line.

They had a family of four sons and two daughters;

Denise married Steve Wowk, part owner of Lac La Biche Transport. They have four sons and three daughters. Gerald married to Donna Zacharuk, Gloria married to Horst Theil, Rendal, Christopher, Laureen, Steven and Patricia.

George is a heavy equipment operator and married to Maureen Drott. They have four daughters and two sons; Anne Marie, Helen Martha, Carol, Robert, Marguerite and John.

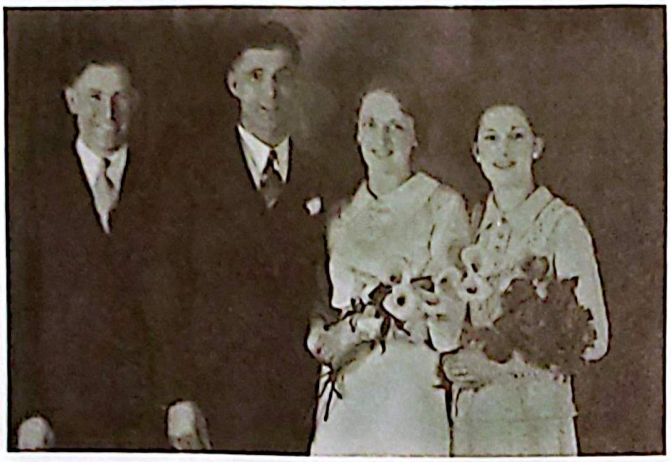
Raymond is a gas line contractor and pressure welder. He married Jacqueline Chester and had three daughters and one son, Therese, Lorraine, Allen and Deborach.

Edgar took over his dad and grandfather's farm, but passed away on October 15th, 1975. He had married Dianne Oncuil. The have one son and two daughters; Kevin, Renee Marie and Lianne Bernadette.

Maurice is a toolpush on the oil rigs. He is married to Jean Boyko.

Lucille is married to Alain Bouvier, a Horticultural technician and presently farming in Mazenod, Saskatchewan. They have two children; Angele and Maurice.

Henry went to work in Flin Flon, Manitoba in 1928. He was employed by the Hudson Bay Company during



Henry and Laura Coutu (Lee) at their wedding on April 22, 1932. Hector Coutu on left and Mary Lee on right.

the construction of the plant and later was employed in the open pit and the underground operation. He married Laura Lee on April 22nd, 1936. In 1942 he quit the Company and came back where he was born here at Brosseau and took over his father's farm who was planning on retiring. Later they bought the Brosseau store and Post Office from Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Didier. They operated it till 1955. He worked in Grand Cache till his retirement in 1976. He passed away in October 1978.

They had a family of four boys; Robert was a salesman for Good All Rubber and married Bonnie Cousins. They had one son Wesley.

Ronald is an electrical contractor and married Karen Morgan. They have two children; Darin and Brian.

Norman is a Hotel owner and operator. He married Bernice Burdett and have three children; Roland, Susan and Daryle.

Eugene is a bank manager and is married to Helen Argue. They have two children; Bradley Robert and Brent.

Harvey never married and he died on April 22nd, 1977.

Adelard served in World War II and upon discharge he worked as a store clerk. He married Alice Gamache on August 22nd, 1968. They had four children; Jeanette married to Jacksin Chamberlain, Louis, Roland and Suzanne.

Janice, Roger, Pearly, Roger Jr. and Betty Coutu (1970).

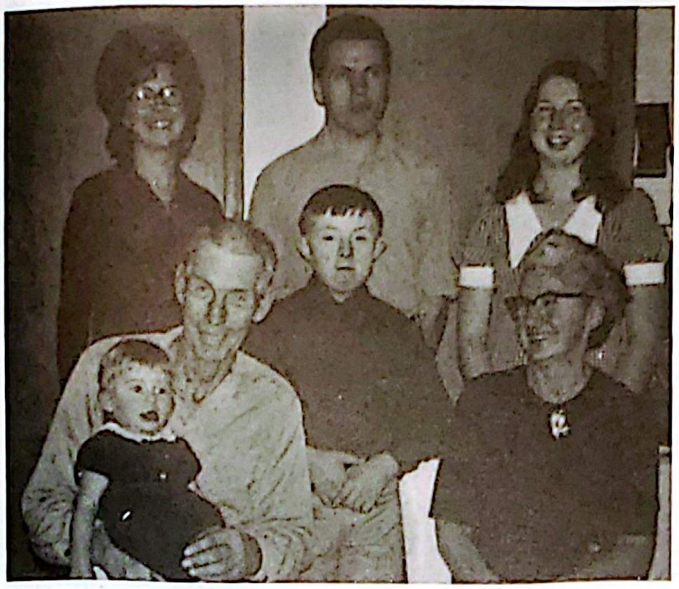
Roger married Pearly Emes on April 7th, 1942. He rented John Chester's farm while John was gone to the army. They moved to Blackfoot and he was employed in the Lloydminister oil fields. Later he moved to Estevan where they lived for many years. The last 18 years he has been employed by Dresser Atlas, in charge of their warehouse here in Edmonton.

They have three children; Betty married to John Surtees, who is manager of a truck firm. They have two children; John Edward and David Russell.

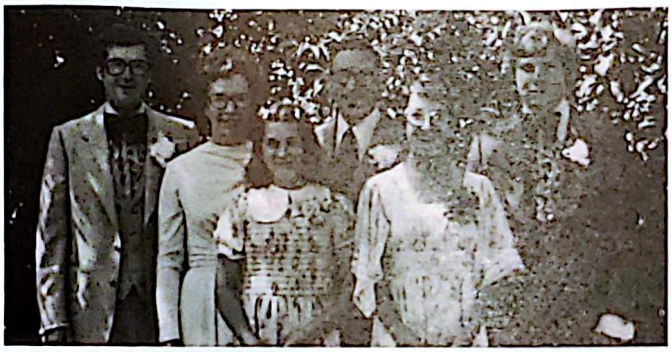
Roger who is a pastry cook and who lives in Vancouver, B.C.

Adelard and Alice Coutu with their family, Jeannette, Louis, Roland and Suzanne in 1970.

Back row: Paul and his wife Shirley, Ken Jackson and Lorraine, Ron Michelow and Claudette. Front row: Therese, Christopher, Delorese and Rene Coutu, Timothy and Marcia. Granddaughter Dawn Nicole sitting on Rene's knees.



Back row: Vivian, Roland, Eilleen, Keith in centre, Gerald holding granddaughter Michelle and Lucy Owen (Coutu).



Maurice, Yvonne Joly (Coutu), Lynne, Andre Joly, Lise Ann, and Paul in 1976.

Janice who is a legal secretary and who also lives in Vancouver.

Lucy married Gerald Owen on November 13th, 1953. They farm in the Ryley district, and they had a family of four children; Vivian married to Bruce Hill who is employed as a butcher for I.G.A., Gerald, Eilleen, and Keith.

Rene is a school bus and tow truck owner-operator. He served in World War II in Italy and France. On his return from the army he married Delorese Hebert on November 26th, 1948. They have eight children; Claudette who married Ronald Michelow, Lorraine who married Ken Jackson, Paul married Shirley Bierkas, Maureen who passed away on January 16th, 1960, Therese, Marcia, Timothy and Christopher.

Yvonne married Andre Joly on February 9th, 1952. Andre is a Bookkeeper and Secretary for Robertson Construction in St. Paul, Alberta. Yvonne keeps her time occupied by doing voluntary work for the handicapped in St. Paul, Alberta. She was chosen the citizen of the year for 1979 for the help and encouragement she has given to the mentally retarded cause. Andre and Yvonne have

Lorette and Roger Hambly with Simone, David and Christopher in 1968.

four children; Maurice is a chartered accountant and is presently in New Zealand, Paul is going to N.A.I.T., Lise Ann is going in for nursing, and Lynne is completing her grade twelve in St. Paul.

Lorette married Roger Hambly on November 28th, 1959. He his a Refrigeration Engineer operating his own business in Calgary, Alberta. They have three children: Christopher, David and Simone.

Alphonse is single and lives in St. Paul. He is handicapped by the loss of speech and hearing. He spends his time painting, coppertooling, macramae and many other pass times which he is very good at.

Arthur was single and spent most of his life in Calgary. He served in World War II. He was a plumber and gas fitter by trade. He passed away on March 31st, 1970.

HECTOR COUTU'S BIOGRAPHY

by Hector Coutu

I remember as a child of four years, when we lived in the log cabin with six other children the oldest being eleven years old, that it was quiet comfortable. In the center of the 18 by 18 foot room was a cast iron heater. The ceiling was at the most seven feet high. There was a two foot square window on the west side and another on the south side of the room. As you can see we didn't have too much daylight. The room was whitewashed so that helped brighten the room. When we had visitors the

PROVINCE OF MANITOBA

Mine Rescue Course

CERTIFICATE OF PROFICIENCY

IN THE USE OF MINE RESCUE APPARATUS

This is to Certify that - HECTOR M. COUTU -

FLIN FLON, MANITOBA has attended a Course of Instruction in the use of the McCaa Mine Rescue Apparatus and is now competent to wear the same in noxious atmospheres, to examine it, and to report on its condition. He has also received instruction in First Aid in Asphyxiation Cases and in the use of Oxygen Reviving Apparatus.

REMARKS:

Instructor, Mine Rescue Course

Director of Mines

Duration of Course: Twelve weeks.

Date: FEBRUARY 15, 1976.

grown-ups would sit around the kitchen table in the 10 by 18 lean-to, which had a two by four foot square window and which provided adequate light for this small room. The children would sit or play in the larger room or sometimes sit around and listen to conversation going on.

When we moved to the new house in 1918 as a boy of 5 years old, one of the first incidents I can remember is that Delima Lapierre (who later became Mrs. Barnes) was hired to help us move. She had unpacked her belongings and left her laxative pills on the dresser. I happened to be wandering by her room and noticed these chocolate coated candies and ate them all. It wasn't too long after, that the pot was reserved especially for me and I can still remember Mrs. Barnes coming out of her room yelling "He ate all my laxative pills".

This eleven room thirty-five foot square house was heated by one large cast iron heater in the center of the sitting room. The kitchen part was heated by a wood burning kitchen stove. Some night when the fires happen to go down it was quiet common to see half an inch of ice on the water pail twenty feet away from the kitchen stove. As you can see, we didn't worry about keeping the house temperature at a balmy 75 degrees as we do today. The colder it was the more blankets we would pile on our beds. In the morning dad would get up half an hour earlier and get the fire going, then we would dress up in our cold clothes, and rush around the red hot stove. After we had absorbed all the heat we could we would go and make our chores or move around the house.

When I was seven years old, like the rest of the children it was time to start school. I walked one mile and a half to the Champlain school. In the winter we had the use of a horse and cutter.

At seven years I had to help the older brother bring in fire wood. Later when I was about ten I had to help bring in the water and keep the water supply tank filled. As today there was always lots of complaints, such as I always get to do the hard jobs while the other's had the easier jobs to do. Often mother had to be the referee to settle the arguments. Later I was promoted to help the older ones with the chores. We went to school till we were fifteen years old and that was the end of our school days. We were then considered a man and could do any job around the farm after that.

The traveller asked the farmer, how come he had so many unmarried girls at home, he replied "till they can carry two pails of water to the house at one time, they are not ready for marriage. The next day they were all carrying two pails at a time and the water barrel was full to the top.

The first year I was out of school I helped with the threshing and got $1.00 a day for working from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. I had a hard time keeping up with the rest of the men but I did and received a whole $31.00 for all that hard work. With the money I bought a Browning 22 repeating gun for $14.75. I was proud like a peacock of my first gun and I was really in business as a hunter. That year there was lots of rabbits and their furs sold for 5 cents each skinned and dried.

I spent the winter cutting brush and clearing the

land, getting it ready for breaking the following year. At the same time I set snares and trapped rabbits and weasels etc. It was enough to keep me supplied with spending money.

All the children that had finished school at Champlain, spent their leisure time in the summer playing baseball. In time they had a good ball team. Under the able management of Ralph Steinhauer, they had a team who competed with the best in the area and Champlain made it's name known to everyone and had lots of support from the local fans.

My life style had not changed much since I left school almost four years before. That year I washed gold on the north bank of the Saskatchewan River on the S.E. 32-56-11-W4th with a Swede called Ollie Hanson. I would shovel the gravel in the sluice box and he would wash it down with water taken from the river. For all that hard work we were lucky if we could make ourselves one dollar a day. It was not much but work was hard to get at that time and that was one way one could get cash for our days work. I decided that their was not much future in this work so I decided to look for something else.

On August 2nd, 1933 I went to Flin Flon, Manitoba to try and get work at the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company plant. When I went to apply for a job I found out there was hundreds of applications ahead of me. Every morning I would go to the employment office to see if they needed men. The answer was always "no men needed today". As a pastime a group of us spent our leisure time playing softball or hardball in the small park close to the employment office. When the cold weather came we got permission to use water from the fire hydrant close by, to make ice for a small skating rink. Then we spent our time skating and playing hockey. In the mean time we were still making our daily check at the employment office for work. We didn't know at the time, that as we spent our leisure hours playing ball and hockey, we were closely watched and this would be instrumental for me to get employment.

On December 12th, 1933 I was taken in to see Mr. Caulfield the mine superintendant and he told me that I could go to work in the underground mine, if I was willing to play baseball and hockey for the mine team. At that time there was only about seventy men employed in the mine and they wanted to build up a team to join the other department teams which were the smelter, town, surface and open pit in a league. Six of us who spent our time playing next door to the main office got a job.

Every year on July the first the five teams had a baseball tournament, which the Company paid $500.00. prize to the winning team. $500.00 don't look like much today, but the starting wage at that time was 50¢ an hour. Starting wages today is at least ten times that much, at todays value it would be equivalent to $5000.00 at least.

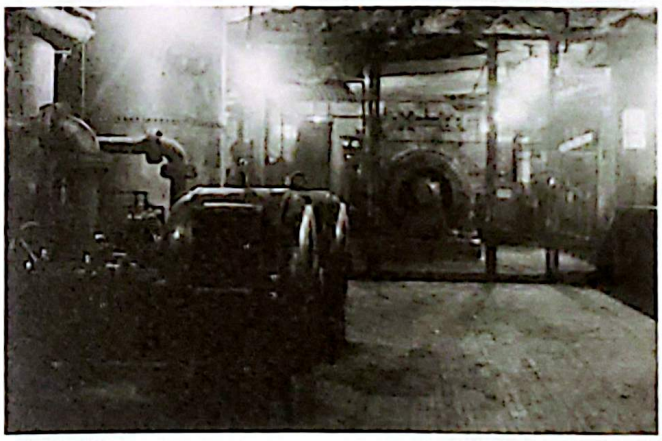
The first of July 1934 our mine team got beat out and again in 1935. The next day when I went to work, Mr. Iver (the mine assistance superintendant) asked me "whats the matter with you guys that you can't win that tournament", I told him that we needed pitchers; and he said "if thats all your problem, get some in".

I didn't loose no time to tell our coach about our conversation, and he recommended to see Mr. Iver again and see how we could go about getting some in and if he meant what he had told me. He told me to look for some and he would see that they were hired for our mine team.

Our coach Mr. McDougal didn't lose any time to go to Saskatoon, where he used to play ball and came back with two good baseball pitchers and one softball pitcher. My brother Henry played for the Open Pit and they had beat us on the First of July. Their coach and catcher named Concrete McDonald still happy about their victory, challenged us for a game. In August we placed a wager of a keg of beer that we could beat them and we did.

On July 1st, 1936 we won the tournament and we finally had a very good team. I was secretary, and every year before the baseball season we would pass a collection amongst the miners and everyone gave freely and were finally proud of the team they supported.

The first closed hockey rink was built for the 1936 hockey season. I was one of the first directors of the club. That year the Company brought in and gave employment to many good hockey players from all over the prairies, such as Sid Abel, Milt Schmidt, Toe Blake and George Howe (Gordie Howe's Uncle) and many other National Hockey League caliber hockey players. I was far from being as good a hockey player as they were but I often practiced with them and it was lots of fun.



Well lit pump station that blew up while on shift manning pumps.

I had a few chilling experiences while I was employed for the Company. The mine used to close on Sundays, but somebody had to look after the pumps and this particular time it was my turn. The hoistman let me down for the 7 p.m. shift and made my rounds checking all pumps. when I got to 1170 foot level I decided to sit down and have lunch in the well lit and warm pump station. All of a sudden there was a loud crack and the large transformers blew up spreading hot tar all over the place. As I found out later, there was a lightening storm on surface and the lightening hit the underground power line and knocked out all the power. In a matter of seconds the whole area was in total darkness and no more humming of the large motors. All I could hear was

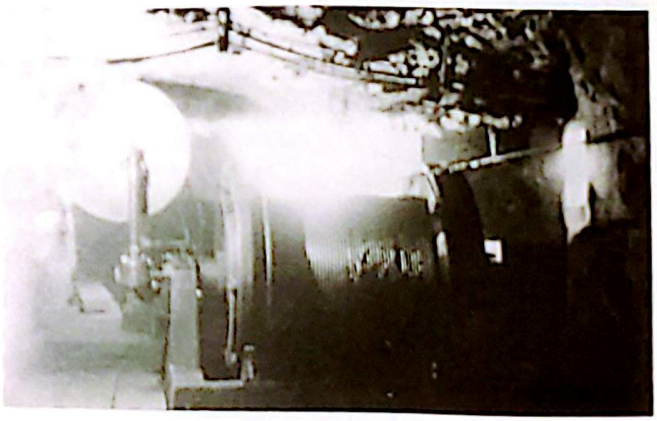
the water rushing into the sumps underneath the floor where I was standing on. I felt around the floor till I found my lamp and made my way to the elevator but when I got there, there was no way I could call for the cage because the call button was out of power also. So I went back to the pump station and waited. When quiting time came and I didn't call for the elevator, the hoistman knew that there had to be something wrong so he called for help. Five hours later cold and wet I was rescued and you can believe it, I was sure glad to see daylight again.

As you can see by the picture of the stopes, they are large pockets cut out of the rock after the mineral bearing rock is taken out and these holes have to be filled to prevent a cave-in. A shaft, which serves as a chute is drilled from the surface to these underground pockets. Millions of tons of waste rock is dumped in this chute eventually filling the empty space below. In this instance the chute plugged up and the surface crew tried to blast it clear from the top but without success. At that time I was blasting boss on that shift so they phoned me to see if I could help them solve their problems. I went in search of the plugged area and found it. I placed a case of powder as far in the plugged area as I could reach. At 4 p.m. when all the miners were going off shift I lit the charge and succeeded in clearing the plugged chute. The next day I went to see what the place looked like after it was clear of rocks. I found out that where I had walked on and placed the case of powder the day before was a large gapping hole hundred of feet down. If the pile of rock would have let go while I was placing the case of powder I would have never been found and would have been covered by millions of tons of rock. Chills run down my spine and I just couldn't get out of the place fast enough.

On another occasion a worker was walking in an unknown area, slipped and fell in a hole. As he fell he lost his light and was falling in complete darkness. He finally was able to stop his fall by grabbing a ledge. He yelled for help and got no answer. His fingers and hands were getting numb and could barely hold his weight anymore, and the last resort even though, he was not a believer he prayed and prayed, finally his cut and bleeding fingers had to let go. To his surprise he fell two feet and landed on the solid bottom of the pit. He sat there for a moment, wondering who he should thank for his experience; found his light and walked out a living man.

During that time I was employed as a mucking machine and hoist operator, miner, blasting and mucker boss in charge of loading, hauling and supplying the mill with 1000 tons of ore per shift. I had taken a home study

A big hole cut out of solid rock after the ore was taken out. From the top of the picture where you see men working, to the hole on the lower part of the picture is a distance of eighty feet, just to give you an idea of the size of this stope which it's called. This is the kind of stope that I could have fell in, if the rock would have let go while I was placing the case of powder to break it loose.



A hoist which Hector Coutu operated while employed for H.B.Co. in 1935.

150 H.P. mucking machine used to load ore in the H.B.Co. mine.

course on mining and metalurgy and a twelve week course on mine resuce and held a Certificate of Proficiency issued by the Province of Manitoba in 1936.

I was a member of the mine rescue team and it was no pleasant job picking injured and sometimes dead workmen. The final blow came when I had to pick the pieces of a friend of mine who had been blown to pieces by a blast. So I decided to look for something better.

In the winter of 1937-38 I enrolled on a home study course for Gas, Diesel and Aero engines through Greer College in Chicago U.S.A.

In the spring of 1938 I quit the Company and went for my six month practical training course in Chicago. I felt quiet confident that I had found what I enjoyed working at at last. the school had promised to find employment for me when I graduated, and they did. I was to go to Selkirk, Manitoba and work in a garage for the starting wage of $35.00 a month. I had never asked what my starting wage after I graduated was going to be, but it was quiet a let down from my previous employment with the Hudson Bay Mining company, which was about $1.00 an hour ($150.00 a month.)

I didn't take it, instead I decided to wander around the country for a while. In the fall of 1940 I was working for McDoudal Sawmills at Winfield, Alberta driving a logging truck, for monthly wage of $28.00 a month. The wage situation hadn't changed since I was offered that garage job, two years before, but I was still determined not to go back to the mine at any cost.

In early January 1941 I decided that, that was enough and I went to Edmonton to join the army. When I seen the recruiting Officer and had my doctors examination I was told to come back at the office at 9 a.m. and that they would see then if I had passed my medical. When I got there he told me to pack up my personal belongings and be at the Strathcona Cafe for lunch at 11 a.m. and that I was going to the Port Radium mine N.W.T., leaving the airport at 1 p.m. I met up with Ralph Kelly, McDonald, Arli Bergstrom and a young mining engineer we called Doc. At the airport we were joined by the former owner of the mine Mr. Lebine. The mine was being taken over by the Canadian Government and we were to be employees of the government as long as they needed us.

When we got there it was getting dark, in fact at that time of the year there wasn't very much daylight anyway. They had flares on the lake for the plane to guide itself for landing. Nevertheless I was glad to be on land, after our long trip.

After a warm meal we were taken to our rooms in the bunk house and had a well deserved rest. Next morning Doc called me to the office and asked me for my help to get the mine back into production, because he had just come out of University and had no practical mining experience. On the other hand, they had wired Flin Flon before we left Edmonton and had all the records of my previous mining experiences. He told me that the four experience miners were to get $40.00 a month plus so much per ton of ore taken out of the mine. I had to help him come to a per ton figure because he had no idea how it worked in other mines. Arli and I were asked to drill an exploration raise from the 250 foot level, following the pitch blend vein, as we drilled upward towards surface. After going up for almost a month, cold water was running out of cracks in the rock and I asked Doc jokingly "are you sure we are not drilling under the lake". He wasn't sure himself so we went to the office and dug out some maps and sure enough, with the slight incline that we were going up, we were drilling underneath for sure. We didn't loose any time to go and measure the distance we had drilled upward. According to his measurements and the depth of the lake, another 40 feet we would have broke through the bottom and filled the mine with water. You can be sure that, that ended the exploration raise.

One day when I came off shift Doc told me that, there was no more stand-by power plant because one was knocking so bad that they had to shut it down and was out of service till they could get a repairman in. Right away I told him of my experience in Flin Flon and I didn't look forward to being stranded in a cold dark mine again. I surprised him when I told him that I had my certificate as a mechanic and I would gladly look at it. We went directly to the powerhouse and took the motor apart. As I suspected it was a loose connecting rod and it had to be rebabbited. Babbit was used in the mill for bearings and within 24 hours, the bearing was rebabbited and the motor running again. After we quit the exploration raise, both drilling crews were taking out pitch blend ore faster than the mill could process it. Pitch blend ore was the main component used to construct atomic bombs and fuel nuclear atomic plant. I suspect that we were helping the American Government develop the first atomic bomb, through the co-operation of the Canadian Government.

In early July the mine closed down and I came back in a small four passenger plane that wasn't in too good a running condition. Finally the motor stopped in mid air and couldn't be started again and had to make a force landing on Lac La Biche.

All the time I was in Port Radium I had not touched my wages. All expenses were paid by the Government and there was no place to spend our money. My cheques were deposited in the Royal bank in Edmonton. I had cleared close to three hundred a month, a far cry from the wages I was getting from McDougal Lumber Company before I left six months before.

During the winter of 1942 I bought the home quarter of land, the S.W. 14-56-12-W4th for $500.00 cash and $500.00 ayear for three years. I wanted to build close to the road where the buildings are today, but first I had to find out if there was water. I hired a well driller to dig me a well and pulled in towards evening ready to get an early start in the morning. First thing he wanted was a case of beer to quench his thirst. Next morning he wanted more and I furnished him with beer till evening. Then I told him that was it, "no more beer till a well was dug". Next morning he coaxed me for more. This time it

was "No". He said he was pulling out, but when he went out he had a second thought and started drilling. He never stopped drilling till he struck water, then I had to get him the beer as I had promised. Again he drank till I wouldn't give him anymore. I finally told him that I wouldn't give him any till he put the cribbing in the well. By that time the well had partly caved in and there was hardly any water to be seen. Anyway he decided to put the cribbing in and I was glad to get him off the place, even if I had no water in the well. At least I knew that there was water there and wrote it off as my first bad experience I encountered on the farm.

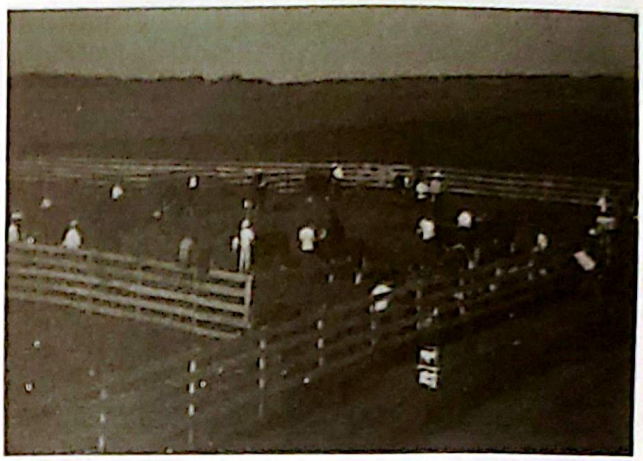
The following winter I went and made lumber with Bill Kabage at Jim Welan's lumber mill, about fifty miles north from my farm. The following year I built myself a 14 by 22 house out of that lumber and had enough left over to build myself a grainery and chicken house. That summer I bought a Hart Parr tractor for $65.00, overhauled it and broke 40 acres. When I bought the farm there was 60 acres broke, so now I had one hundred acres under cultivation. I broke a piece of land every year till finally in 1947 the whole quarter was under cultivation.

In 1946 I hired Roger Ouellette and dug a well by hand. We made a tripod out of poles and on this we fastened a pulley. On this pulley ran a rope to pull the full pail of dirt out of the well. Lucky for me he was careful and never dropped a full pail of dirt on my head. We went down 48 feet and found water. In eight days we completed the well, cribbing and all. After 35 years this well is still producing and gave me no trouble.

In 1948 I bought my first combine for $1450.00. It was a John Deere eight foot pull type combine with a power unit on it. I pulled it with a new 8N Ford tractor which I had bought four months before. I used this combine till 1950, when I bought a Cockshutt 112 for $5300.00 brand new. I traded the John Deere combine on it and got $1300.00 for it.

On October 31st, 1949 I married Suzanne Bachelet. The following spring we planted a spruce and popalar shelter belt around our farmstead. We had chickens, hogs, bees and a few cows. During the winter of 1950 I made lumber for Alex Kabage on shares. The following year we built a new house and installed a central heating system. In 1953 we got the power and installed the water works. The following year we bought Fred Rusnak's farm and increased our land holding by another two hundred and fifty acres.

Coutu's farmstead three miles north of Brosseau on Highway #36 (Picture taken in 1967).



4-H Beef Club members parading their calves to be judged in July 1968.

The grand champion was owned by Pat Taschuk and the reserve champion by Roland Coutu with a black Angus calf.

Suzanne and Hector Coutu's family at Debbie and Adrian's wedding on May 17, 1980.

During the winter of 1961 I made logs on Henry Coutu Farm (S½ of section 24-56-11-W4th) The following summer we sawed over 200,000 feet of lumber. We made enough lumber to completely finish our farmstead. In 1973 we bought my brother Lawrence's farm, increasing our land holding to 696 acres.

From the time I bought the farm in 1942 I can take the pleasure of having planned and built the farmstead from native bushland to what it is today. We have made the lumber for the construction of the buildings, done our own plumbing, most of our electric wiring and can truthfully say that we built 99% of this farmstead ourselves.

In 1977 when I reached retirement age we sold the farm to our two sons, Roland and Adrian.

We have a family of five children:

Roland married Joanne Chornohus and have two children Michael and Jennifer.

Annette married Allen Brathwaite and have three children: Felice, Brett and Bryce.

Adrian married Debbie Kretzul.

Denise married Andrew Robinson and have two children Jason and Daniel.

Yvonne is single.

After we sold the farm we bought the Rectory of the Roman Catholic Church here at Brosseau and moved in on November 1977. We are happy to have retired here amongst our family and friends on the north banks of the scenic North Saskatchewan River valley.

LAURENT (LAWRENCE) COUTU

by Flora Coutu

Laurent was born in Vegreville, Alberta, on June 10, 1920. He was one of fifteen children, eleven boys and four girls. His parents, Paul-Albert Coutu and Emilia Theroux were farming in Brosseau since 1906. This is where Laurent grew up and attended Champlain School. At nineteen, he left Brosseau to work on several farms near Lac La Biche and Red Deer.

In September 1939, war was declared in Europe, and Laurent joined the Canadian Army. In 1940, he volunteered for active service overseas. He trained in England until June 1944, and took part in the invasion of Normandy on June 7th at Arromanches, France. Laurent was in the Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (R.C.E.M.E.) regiment and his military number was M26769.

Five months later he arrived in Belgium, in November 1944 where he met Flora G. Malbecq in Brussels. Fourteen months later they were married on January 5, 1946.

Flora had completed her three years of Normal School at the "Institut de l'Enfant Jesus" in Brussels, in July 1945.

Laurent's brother, Rene, was also in the army and stationed in Holland at that time. He attended the wedding as best man.

Flora with Jacqueline, Paulette, Laurent and Lillian (1948).

After a few months of deliberation on whether they should stay in Belgium or return to Canada, they decided to settle on a farm near Brosseau. They arrived in St. Paul, his war-bride preceding him by ten days, where they stayed with Mr. and Mrs. P.A. Coutu until the birth of their first daughter, Liliane, in December, 1946.

In May 1947, they moved to their ½ section farm where they lived until the spring of 1954. In 1955, they bought and operated a general store and bulk oil and gas service station in Duvernay. In 1961 Laurent was the Postmaster until 1967 when he sold the business to Joe Lavallee and moved to St. Paul.

Meanwhile, in 1965-1966 Flora attended the University of Alberta, obtained her teaching certificate and taught in St. Paul from 1966 to 1974.

From 1967 to 1968 Laurent worked in the Post Office in St. Paul and from 1960 to 1970 worked as a commissioner at the Edmonton Court House. In the fall of 1970, he worked full time as a Prairie Farm Assistance Inspector. In 1971 Laurent became ill and died in St. Paul on November 30, 1973.

From left to right - Marie Anne, Liliane, Flora Coutu, Philippe, Paulette, Michele and Jacqueline, 1979.

In August 1974 Flora moved to Edmonton and teaches at Grandin School.

Laurent and Flora had six children, five girls and one boy:

Liliane — born 1946, obtained a Bachelor of Education degree at the University of Edmonton and is teaching in St. Albert, Alberta. She married Marcel Maisonneuve and they have two children, Marc and Joanne.

Back row L. to R. Philippe, Marcel Maisonneuve, Robert Packolyk, Robert Warsaba and Flora Coutu. Front row Michele, Liliane, Paulette, Jacqueline, Marie Anne. Children are Joanne and Marc Maisonneuve.

Paulette — born in 1948, obtained her Bachelor of Education degree at the University of Alberta and lives in St. Albert. She married Robert Packolyk and they have three children, Roberta, Michael and Christine.

Jacqueline — born in 1951, obtained her Bachelor of Arts and her Bachelor of Laws degree. She married Robert Warsaba and they have two children, Stephania and Phillipe. She practices law in Grande Prairie, Alberta.

Phillippe — born in 1953, obtained his Bachelor of Arts at U. of A. and is a social worker in Grande Prairie. He married Wendy Bradner and they have one daughter, Julie.

Marie Ann — born in 1956, obtained her Bachelor of Arts at the U. of A. and is an insurance adjustor in Edmonton. She married Craig Alward and they have one son, Matthew.

Michele — born in 1962, attends the U. of A. and is in her first year of Arts.

Top row LEFT TO RIGHT — Pearl and Simon Chrapko. Bottom row — Elsie, Jennie and Martha in 1927.

Simon and Pearl Chrapko L. to R. — Jennie, Mary Pawliuk (Chrapko), Simion, Pearl, Anne, Eva, Mike, and Harry. Center Metro Pawliuk, John Chrapko holding Clair. Front row — Elsie, Walter and Martha. (1931)

SIMION CHRAPKO FAMILY

by Metro Chrapko

Simion Chrapko (1876-1936) was born in Berhornet, Bukowina located on the fertile steppes of western Ukraine. He married Pearl Zacharuk (1882-1935). In all they had 9 children: Mary, John, Mike and Dan were born in the Ukraine and Harry, Jennie, Martha, Elsie and George who died as an infant were born in Canada.

Simion, his wife and their family of four children sailed from Bermen, Brandenburg, Germany on May 28th, 1913 arriving in Halifax, Canada on June 9th, 1913. From Halifax they travelled west by train to Alberta then to the Luzan district. Upon arrival they were reunited with Simion's father, John Stephan Chrapko who had been homesteading on the NE¼ 21-55-11-W4th since 1908.

It should be noted that John Stephan Chrapko was an elderly man when he came to Canada long before Simion and his family arrived. He also experienced his share of problems on the homestead. In 1909, a year after he made application for the homestead, a prairie fire destroyed the logs he was to use for building his home and farmstead. A statement on the status of the homestead sworn before a Justice of the Peace in April of 1910 states in part:

> "After having drawn timber on the place with the purpose of building, it has been burned down from prairie fire in April 1909 and then from lack of means I was in the impossibility of getting more timber for the time being. Therefore I lived with my nephew temporarily and until lately."

At the time of making the sworn statement he had broken 7 acres of land, built a house in March 1910 worth $145.00, owned two oxen and a cow. He was 70 years of age at the time.

He was almost dispossessed of the homestead when another prospective homesteader filed an application in November of 1910 for a homestead on the same land, claiming there had been no residency on the land. The matter was later resolved and John Stephan Chrapko (Simion's father) continued making improvement to the homestead.

Despite the setbacks by 1912 he had broken and cropped 24 acres of land, owned 2 head of cattle, 3 horses, constructed a 12' x 16' log house, a 16' x 20' log stable, 16' x 18' log granary, dug a well and wire fenced the whole quarter section. In that same year he applied for a patent to the land and was finally granted title on May 22, 1915.

Simion and his family stayed on the homestead helping to clear and improve it and in November 1915 Simion took over the property. They remained there until 1928 when Mike the second oldest son took over the property and Simion purchased land approximately 2 miles north and 4 miles east of Vegreville. They continued to farm there until his wife Pearl passed away in 1935 and Simion died in 1936.

MARY CHRAPKO

by Metro Chrapko

Mary Chrapko was born in Berhomet Bukowina, Ukraine to Simion and Pearl Chrapko in 1901 and came with her parents to Canada in 1913.

Mary married Metro Pawliuk in 1917 and in 1918 they purchased and moved on to the E ½-26-55-13-W4th near Kaleland. They have 5 children: Mike, Nick, Rose, George and Sophie. Mary and her husband operated a very successful farm operation for many years. Later, when their youngest son George got married and took over the farm operation they ventured again successfully into several hotel businessess.

Mary's hands never stopped. Whenever she was not doing her household chores, she was working on her handicrafts. Her embroidery, crocheting and especially her Ukrainian patterns in cross stitch are a marvel to behold.

Some of the most memorable occasions were when Metro and Mary invited friends and relatives alike to a feast (hram) to celebrate the harvest feast day. Mary passed away in 1974. Her husband Metro presently resides in Two Hills.

Mike married Medora Shepansky. They farmed for a few years near Fort Kent, then alternated between trucking and managing hotels. Mike and Medora live in Edmonton. They have three daughters, Mary Anne, Faye and Bernice.

Mary Anne married Charles Embury and lives in Edmonton. They have two sons, Christopher and Michael.

Faye married Gary Yeomans and they reside in Calgary. They have two daughters, Cathy and Chris.

Bernice married Al Osinchuk and they also have two daughters, Angela and Cinthia. They make Edmonton their home.

Nick Pawliuk married Anne Nahamko. They farmed for several years near Kaleland, then started their own motel business in Osoyoos, B.C. They have 4 sons and a daughter, Delmer, Rosemary, Dale, Russell and Allan.

Delmer married Pat Kiziak and they live in Hudson Hope, B.C. They have a son and a daughter, Travis and Terra Lea.

Dale lives in Edmonton and Rosemary is attending U.B.C. Russell and Allan are with their parents in Osoyoos.

Rose Pawliuk married Victor Luchak. Initially they farmed then her husband became a carpenter. Later they went into the motel business first in Castor then in Swan Hills. They are currently living in Spruce Grove.

Rose and Victor have four sons, Ralph, Wayne, Barry and Richard.

Ralph married Marg Adams who had two children Nadine and Lance from her previous marriage. Ralph is presently attending university at Thunder Bay, Ontario.

Wayne married Lorna Henry and lives in Spruce Grove.

Barry married Donita Johnson. They live in Leduc and have one son Kristofer.

Richard married Beverly Dalton and they live in Millet.

George Pawliuk married Martha Rosychuk, the daughter of Pat and Mary Rosychuk. They farm the E ½-26-55-13-W4th near Kaleland which was formerly owned by his parents. They have three daughters, Deborah, Marilyn and Cynthia.

Debbie married Les Reynolds. They have one daughter, Tanya and live in Rocky Mountain House.

Marilyn married Darryl Sander and lives in Edmonton.

Cindy is still on the farm with her parents.

Sophie Pawliuk married Walter Hunchak a businessman. They have a son, Howard and a daughter, Kelly. The family lives in Edmonton.

MIKE SIMION CHRAPKO

by Metro Chrapko

Mike Simion Chrapko (1908-1962) was born November 19, 1908 to Simon and Pearl Chrapko in Berhomet, Bukowina, Ukraine.

Mike was five years old when he came to Canada with his parents. He went to school and helped on the farm in the Luzan district as he grew up. At 18 years of age he went to work for a farmer at Three Hills then on November 19th, 1927 he married Anne Saganiuk of Morecambe.

In 1928, Mike and Anne took over the family farm and his father Simion purchased land near Vegreville and moved there with his family. Mike always had a knack for business. In 1936 he decided to give up farming. He sold

Mike and Anne Chrapko in 1935.

Mike and Anne Chrapko Toasting at his son Walter and Olga's wedding.

the farm and became a sub-agent in Morecambe for the International Harvester Company where he sold farm equipment and small appliances. Two years later he sold out and moved to Two Hills where he set up a IHC shop at the north end of main street where the Treasury Branch now stands. Later he expanded his business into a new shop where Zayiak Electric is now located. Here, Mike and his wife Anne improved their business to one of the most successful implement dealership in this area. Anne was very supportive to her husband. It was customary to close the shops in town for noon and if a customer was in the shop at closing time Mike would invite them for lunch. Anne would have the meal ready for Mike and his friends.

To be in Mike's company was always a joy. He was forever jovial and enjoyed a good clean practical joke whether he was on the receiving end or whether he victimized someone else. One such incident involved a friend of Mike's and a washing machine. The friend had talked about the possibility of buying a washing machine for his wife, however, had not decided on the purchase. One day the friend came to the shop and soon the conversation came around to the fact that his wife was about to have a birthday. After the friend left, Mike promtly delivered a washing machine to his friend's home telling his wife that her husband had bought her a birthday gift and if she did not like the way it worked they could return it. The wife was overjoyed when her husband came home. Needless to say the washing machine was never returned.

Another incident involved a visitor from the United States. Mike enjoyed fishing and thought it would be appropriate to take the visitor and another friend on a fishing trip. Throughout the trip the visitor kept insisting on how much more advanced things were across the border and how much smarter people were in the States. To reach the fishing grounds on the lake one had to traverse a number of bush roads and go through a number of farm gates. On the return trip, Mike not to be out-done by the smart visitor from the States winked at his friend to sit in the middle of the front seat and have the visitor sit on the outside where he would have to open and close all the gates. No sooner did they leave when the visitor again started saying how smart people were in the States. They arrived at the first gate which the visitor opened and closed and then they continued through the bush. Another gate and again he opened and closed it. Finally on the third or fourth arrival at a gate the U.S. visitor realized that he had been opening and closing the same gate. Mike knowing the trails had been travelling through the bush in circles coming back to the same gate time and again. The visitor got the message.

In 1953, Mike and Anne bought a share in the Wainwright Hotel, then in 1954, in the Two Hills Hotel and left their sons to operate the implement business. In 1956 they bought a hotel in East Coulee and moved there where with their youngest son Orest joined them 1½ years later. In 1962, they sold the hotel in East Coulee and were planning to retire in Edmonton when Mike suddenly took ill. He died shortly after. Anne returned to Two Hills where she is still residing. Mike and Anne had two sons, Walter and Orest.

Walter married Olga Kotovich and lives and works in Two Hills. They have one son and a daughter, Brian and Brenda.

Brian lives in Red Deer.

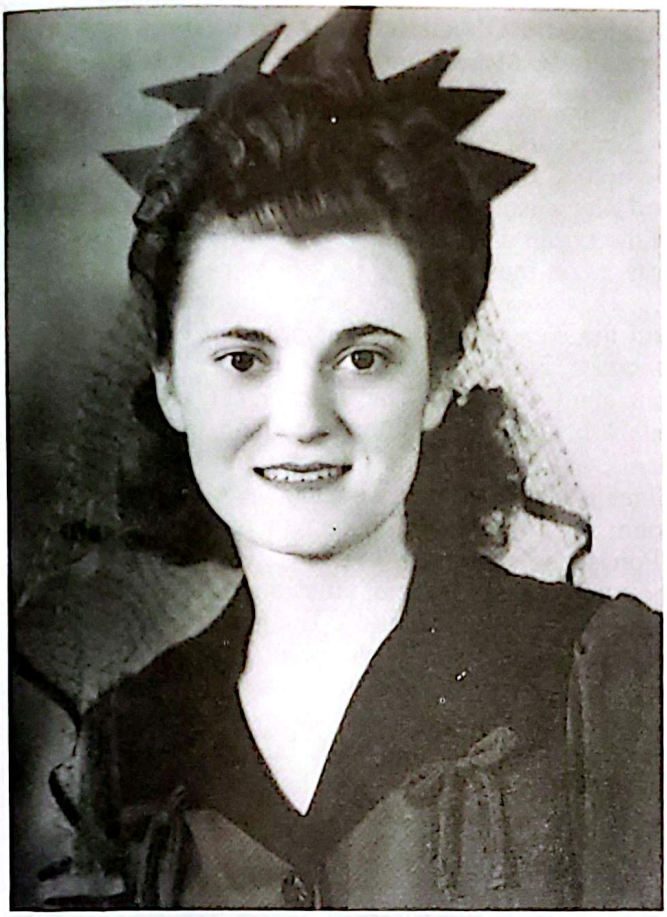
Brenda married Eric Nielsen and they live in Red Deer.

Orest took over the IHC dealership in Two Hills when they left East Coulee and operated until the company centralized operations. Orest married June Delawski. June had two children Brad and Barbara through a former marriage. Orest and June have a daughter Denise. They live with their family in Edmonton.

ELIZABETH CHRAPKO

by Metro Chrapko

Elizabeth (Elsie) Chrapko the youngest of Simion and Pearl Chrapko's family was born in Luzan in 1921. As a youngster, she had difficulty printing the letter "z" in Elizabeth, so following her mother's advise, she started



Elsie Martin Nee Chrapko (1930).

school at Luzan as Alice. Later, her brother Dan started calling her Elsie and the name has remained with her to this day.

Elsie was 13 years old and in grade 8 when her mother died in 1935. For the remainder of the school term she moved to Dan and Olga Chrapko's home at Watsford and attended school there. After spending summer holidays with her father at Vegreville, she moved to her sister's Mary Pawliuk near Kaleland. While there she took grade 9 and 10 at Shepenitz school. In 1938 found Elsie in Edmonton where she took a hairdressing and beauty culture course, graduating from the Marvel Beauty Academy that same year. In the fall, she moved to Trail, B.C. to Martha and John Fraresso's. The following year, she went to stay with her other sister and brother-in-law, Jenny and Jack Kupchanko in New Westminster B.C. and two years later she moved to Armstrong B.C. where she worked in a hospital. Elsie could not utilize the schooling she had received at the Marvel Beauty Academy because of different standards in British Columbia. To meet the standards, she would have required additional training so Elsie decided against that career.

In 1944 she went back to Trail where she worked in the dining room and confectionary for aproximately 2 years at the Tadenac Staff House, a residence for executives from the smelters at Trail.

On August 18, 1946 she left and married Edward Gordon Martin in Vernon B.C. In September of that year, Ed got a job with the Canadian Pacific Railways at Revelstoke, working as a foreman and conductor for the railway.

While living in Revelstoke, their two sons were born. Roderick Duncan in October 1949 and Kerwin Shaun July, 1954.

In 1967, Elsie moved to Salmon Arm in the beautiful Shuswap country and in 1973 she moved to Chilliwack, B.C. where she now resides.

Elsie is the "Poet Laureate" of the family. In recent years, she has taken up writing poetry and now has 10 poems published with the Clover Collection of Verse, Clover Publishing Company. She has also won two merit awards plus a life membership in the Society of Literary Designates.

Her son Roderick married Linda MacKenzie of Calgary in July 1976. They are presently in the process of moving from Prince George B.C. to Calgary. Rod works as Branch Manager for Crestwood Distributors.

Kerwin married Bonnie Barron of Canoe B.C. in December 1973. He has taken diesel engineering and locotrol (automatic control system) with the C.P.R. and presently works as a diesel machinist with that railway in Revelstoke. Kerwin and Bonnie have two sons and a daughter, Michael Shaun, Melissa Holly and Timothy Jordan.

HARRY SIMION CHRAPKO

by Metro Chrapko

Harry Simion Chrapko (1913-1975) was born on September 13, 1913 to Simion and Pearl Chrapko a few months after his parents arrived in Canada.

Harry did not enjoy school as a youngster and quit at an early age. This proved to be a serious disadvantage throughout his life.

Harry stayed with his parents working on the farm and for neighbours until his parents passed away. After they died, Harry stayed with his older brother, John and his wife Eva at Foisy and occasionally with other members of his family. Whether it was the wunderlust or loneliness and heartbreaking memories, no one will ever know, but on occasion Harry would leave John's and Eva's home and work around Vegreville for farmers near his old home. After a year or two he would return to John's and help on the farm or help other neighbours.

The longest period of time Harry was away from John's and Eva's was during World War II. Harry was working for a farmer near Vegreville. The story has it that Harry got called up to the army but failed his medical. Not knowing how to read he was not aware that he did not have to go to war. However, the farmer threatened him, telling him that he would report him to the R.C.M.P. and he would have to go overseas if he did not continue to work for him. Harry stayed on. Metro, John's eldest

Dan and Harry Chrapko about 1926.

son and a small child at the time remembers turning in to see Harry on their return trip from Edmonton. Metro begged Harry to come home with them, however, Harry stayed. Metro wept most of the way home not understanding why Harry could not come.

Harry enjoyed walking and either visiting neighbours or going to town no matter what the weather. Many in the district will no doubt recall seeing Harry in their headlights walking late at night bent against a snow storm or the chill of a freezing winters night.

Most of his life Harry did the only thing he knew, working for or helping farmers. Sometimes for a pittance, sometimes for a place to stay. The family will always be grateful to those who treated him fairly and showed him kindness. For several years before he died Victor his nephew and his wife Elizabeth looked after his needs and provided him with the home they first lived in after they got married on John Pundick's old farm.

Harry remained a bachelor all his life. While in the University Hospital to correct a minor eye ailment. Harry was struck by a sudden massive stroke. He died within 2 days in 1975. He was buried in Vegreville in the same cemetary as his parents and rests in peace only a few steps from his mother's grave as she wanted it to be.

JOHN SIMION CHRAPKO

by Metro Chrapko

John Simion Chrapko (1904-1972) the oldest son of Simion and Pearl Chrapko was born May 1st, 1904 in Berhomet, Bukowina Ukraine. He went to school there and later when the family came to Canada went to school in the Luzan district. As a youngster he worked with his parents on the farm until his late teens.

He enjoyed telling the story of his first day in school and the comical incident that occurred because of the language barrier between the teacher and the new immigrant students. The teacher, in an attempt to establish a proper grading according to Alberta standards, was reviewing the subjects John had taken in the Ukraine. He asked John what language John could read. John, not being fluent in english replied in Ukrainian "Poh latinski" meaning "in Latin". The teacher repeated the same question several times and repeatedly got the same answer, "Poh latinski". The teacher was stumped, he thumbed through his dictionary and other books of knowledge but never did find this odd language "Poh latinski." Education was sparodic in those days depending on whether a teacher could be hired or whether the children had to miss school to help their parents on the farm during the busy season.

John Chrapko in 1923.

At about age 19 John left Luzan and worked for a short period at Tangent building the railway in the Peace River country. He then went to the Lethbridge area and alternated working in the coal mines at Coalhurst in winter and for farmers in the summer to learn the "modern techniques" of farming. In the off season he would return home to Luzan to help his father and brothers improve the homestead. John loved farming. After earning enough money to get started he purchased the S ½-29-56-11-W4th at Foisy in June, 1928. In July of the same year he married Eva Skakun, daughter of Andronik (Andrew) and Martha Skakun. Here they raised their family of five, Clara the only daughter and four sons, Metro, Victor, Ronald and Ivan. They lived and worked on the land until John passed away in 1972. Shortly after they were married the depression hit and the family remembers his accounts of almost losing the farm in the 1930's when cows were worth $4.00 per head and wheat went down to 18¢ per bushel.

John was a progressive minded farmer. The TD 35 "caterpillar" (crawler tractor) called "Charlie" which he purchased about 1939 broke many acres of land on the Saddle Lake Reserve and for surrounding farmers. It was one of the first of its kind in the Two Hills and St. Paul municipalities at the time. It was not uncommon to see John Chrapko working around the clock on his caterpillar pulling the two brush breakers and other farm machinery in "tandem". He was also the first to purchase a 1943 IHC self-propelled combine in the district and the first to service his farmstead with electric power.

John insisted on doing things right and doing them well. He believed in quality of seed, quality of stock and quality of workmanship. His philosophy was that "the land you walk on should be proud you passed over it". He was gifted with a basic common sense approach in his dealings with people and in the things he did. Although unsuccessful in receiving the award, John and his family were nominated as candidates for the Master Farm Family Award in 1964.

John was also a strong community worker. He helped build the Foisy Hall and promoted community functions and Ukrainian concerts there. John was involved in action groups for the building of the Duvernay bridge. The local Farmers Union of Alberta always had his support and he was a member of the Champlain Community Hall. Delegations to government for the betterment of farm communities through improved legislation often saw John leave urgent work in order to contribute.

One story John enjoyed telling and as his son recollects, concerned the ferry crossing at Duvernay. It occurred about 5:00 a.m. one fall morning when farmers from the north side of the river were lining up at the ferry with their wagon loads of grain bound for the elevators in Two Hills. His neighbour, John Bodnar and Mr. Zawadiuk were with John when a highways inspector drove up in either a model T or model A Ford and proceeded to the front of the line. This sort of behaviour was very much frowned upon and common courtesy dictated that one always lined up in turn at ferry crossings. All the farmers were annoyed, but since the inspector was a "government official", did not object. John Bodnar however, took strong exception to the inspector's behaviour, walked up to him and politely told him to get to the back of the line. The disgruntled inspector complied. It was some two or three hours later before John Chrapko and his neighbours crossed the ferry. After delivering their grain and resting their horses at Two Hills, they returned to the Duvernay ferry about 4:00 p.m. that afternoon to find the highway inspector finally crossing the ferry south bound. The next spring work commenced on the steel bridge at Duvernay. John always felt that the incident with the inspector more than any delegations to Government finally convinced the government that a bridge was needed at Duvernay.

Another of his contributions to public service was when he served as councillor in Division 4 in the Municipal District of St. Paul from 1947 to 1955. During his term in office the first gravelled road was constructed from the Duvernay bridge to Highway #28. Traces of the road still remain. Should one wish to travel it, proceed north of Duvernay bridge for 3 miles, then east for 3 miles to Foisy Hall, north for 2 miles to the intersection near John's former farm now farmed by his son Victor, east for 2 miles where Foisy store used to be located. (The store was moved to its present site after Highway #36 was constructed about 1952), continue north for 2 miles then east to Lafond and finally due north until you reach Highway #28. Many other roads were improved in the Division during his term in office. When the municipal boundaries changed John decided to retire from office.

The welcome mat was always out at John's and Eva's home. The family remembers winters when men hauling "tamarack" logs or sleigh boxes laden with "white fish and pickeral" from the north would stop for food and shelter for their horses and themselves. The house was never locked and on occasion the family would return home from visiting neighbours to see the coal oil lamp lighting up the old home and discover that the men had made themselves "at home". The family also remembers when teams and wagons were the mode of travel and families of local Indian natives camped on the road just west of the farmstead. Eva was always able to find something whether it be some bacon, meat, eggs or potatoes to share with their families. In the "good old days" when the roads would drift in and vehicular travel was impossible — snow plows came later, the mailman who hauled the mail between St. Paul and Two Hills stabled and switched teams at John's place. John had the fresh team harnessed and ready for the next leg of the trip while Eva had the coffee, a quick snack and hot coals for the foot warmer in the sleigh ready for Mr. Prenevost, the mailman. Many will also remember Pat Paul who hauled the mail in those days and also played for dances with his band throughout the area.

The Canadian Utilities crew that constructed the first power line from Two Hills to St. Paul also camped at John's. Eva cooked for the crews. Part of the agreement

Eva and John Chrapko 1968.

John and Eva Chrapko's 40th Anniversary; Top row — Allan Shemawchuk, Ivan, Ronald, Joseph Shemawchuk, Metro, Victor, Ronald Shemawchuk. Bottom row — Clara, Eva, John, Elizabeth and Cecile. Children are Evan and Tonia in 1968.

with the company was that John could tie into the power supply when he was ready to install electricity on the farm. It was uncommon to permit individual farmers to receive power however this was how John was able to be supplied with power and it was installed after he constructed his new home before rural electrification became a reality.

Two incidents stand out in the family's memory during the time the power line crews camped at the farm. One was a severe rain storm that hit the area, tearing the tents to shreds, carrying away most of the men's bedding, clothes and supplies. Until new provisions could arrive John and Eva supplied the men with whatever they could and bunked them in the hayloft and graneries. The other was when Metro, their eldest son and a toddler at the time, was playing with a file or short length of pipe that the men were using in their work. He had the pipe in his mouth and while running, tripped and fell. Fortunately the pipe lodged in the side of his cheek and not in his throat, otherwise he may not have survived.

Clara the eldest and only daughter married Joseph Shemanchuk from St. Michael in September 1951. Her husband is an entomologist and works as a research scientist for the Federal government in Lethbridge. They have two sons, Allan and Ronald.

Allan a pharmacist, married Carol Taylor and they have one daughter, Julianna. They live in Sherwood Park.

Ronald is an electrician and lives in Lethbridge.

Metro the eldest son married Cecile Isabel of Falher in February, 1959. Metro works for the Provincial Department of Environment and lives with his wife in Edmonton. Both Metro and Cecile devote a great deal of volunteer time to their community.

Victor married Elizabeth Achtemichuk of Myrnam in July, 1964. Victor and Elizabeth live on the family farm which they took over in 1974. Victor is continuing in his father's tradition of improving the farm operations and in being involved in community affairs with his wife Elizabeth. They have two sons and two daughters, Evan, Tonia, Shane and Xina.

Ronald married Elaine Whissell of Westlock in December 1970. They have two children, daughter Jennifer and son Ryan. They make their home in St. Albert. Ronald is a Civil Engineer and is in partnership with his younger brother, Ivan in Cicon, an Engineer Consulting firm. Ron operates the Edmonton Branch of this firm.

Ivan the youngest son married Dian Sava (nee Hanson) of Calgary in June 1979. Dian was widowed shortly after her first marriage and has one son Ricky. Ivan and his family live in Calgary. He is also a Civil Engineer and operates the Calgary Branch of Cicon.

John passed away in 1972 and in 1974 after Victor took over the farm, Eva moved to her new home in Two Hills.

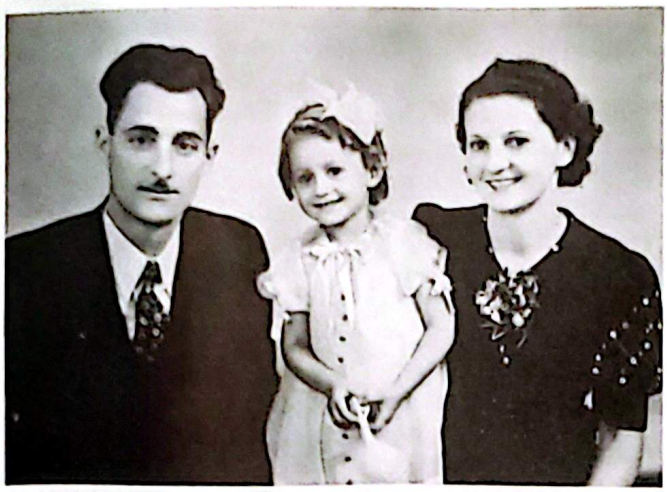
John, Eva and their family were always proud of their community and considered themselves very fortunate to live amongst such good neighbours.

DAN SIMION CHRAPKO

by Metro Chrapko

Dan Simion Chrapko (1910-1974) was born to Simion and Pearl Chrapko in Berhomet, Bukowina, Ukraine. He was a toddler of 3 years when he arrived with his parents to Canada.

The family almost lost him on their trip across the Atlantic. Dan while playing with a sardine can dropped it overboard and proceeded to climb over the deck railing after it. It was only the watchful eye and quickness of his older sister Mary that prevented him from slipping over the ships side to certain death.



Dan, Shirlie and Olga Chrapko in 1937.

It became evident at an early age that Dan was to become the scholar of the family. He loved books and learning was his passion. Education was hard to acquire in the early days due to a shortage of teachers, school and funds. Nonetheless, Dan persisted. As a young man he came to Edmonton and obtained his grade 9 and completed his high school. He then went to Normal School to obtain his teaching certificate and alternated between teaching during the school term, attending university in the summer and working at other jobs to supplement his income.

In 1934 Dan married Olga Grekul from Hairy Hill. Olga was the daughter of Nick S. Grekul and Alexandra (nee Gordey). He then taught school at Watsford where Shirley, their daughter and the first of their two children was born. Dan taught at Watsford for two years then moved to Prut and Ispas.

In 1935 his mother Pearl passed away, then in 1936 his father Simion. Dan took over the administration of the family farm at Vegreville. After about 7 years of very little or no returns from rental and outstanding mortgages, Dan sold the farm.

Dan continued to strive to better himself, teaching during the school term and attending university in the summer. Slowly but surely he obtained his Bachelor of Arts, then his Bachelor of Education degree.

After teaching at Ispas the family moved to Derwent where Terry their son was born. Dan became principal of Derwent High School and taught there for 13 years. When Shirley graduated from High School and was ready to attend University, the family moved to Edmonton to advance her education as well as her music.

Dan taught in Edmonton until ill health forced him into early retirement after 40 years of teaching. He was working towards his Masters degree at the time.

Dan and his wife Olga enjoyed good literature, good classical music, cultural activities and travelling. He did his share of preserving and promoting his Ukrainian heritage and culture by teaching it at St. John's Institute. Dan was also active in the St. John's Greek Orthodox Church.

Shortly before and after he retired, Dan and Olga began travelling extensively to Hawaii, Europe, Russia and the Ukraine. It was as a result of their first trip to the Ukraine and quite by accident that they discovered more surviving relatives. Martha a lady in her seventies and Dan's cousin had heard that a Chrapko was to arrive on a tour. She kept meeting various tour busses asking whether a Chrapko was on board. Finally the tour that Dan and Olga were on, arrived. Martha kept going from person to person asking for Chrapko until she reached Dan. After introducing each other and further conversation they discovered that they were indeed related. The news was spread and Dan and Olga soon met more relatives. Contact with relatives in the Ukraine had been lost over the years and during the two World Wars. It was a joyous reunion.

They were planning a trip to Hawaii when Dan suddenly took ill and passed away in 1974. Olga, his wife lives and works in Edmonton.

Shirley married Richard (Dick) White who is employed by the Federal Government with Revenue Canada. Shirley followed her father's footsteps and became a teacher. She is also a talented pianist. They have a son Richard (Ricky) and a daughter Carleen Gaye. They live with their parents while attending University.

Terry the youngest son loved baseball, hockey and boxing. He pursued these interests as a young man, working in the province and the Northwest Territories and playing for the teams of the area. He won the Golden Gloves Championship in Alberta as a youngster. Terry enjoys physical work and working with his hands. He is presently working and living in the United States.

JENNIE CHRAPKO

by Metro Chrapko

Jennie Chrapko was born in 1916. She went to school at Luzan then Vegreville and stayed with her parents on the farm until they died. After this she stayed at her sister's, Mary Pawliuk. For about one year while Mike Chrapko's wife Anne was convalescing from a serious illness, Jennie stayed at Mike's and helped the family, then returned to Mary's.

While at Mary's, she met and married John (Jack) Kupchanko in January 1936. They then moved to New Westminster B.C. where Jack worked in the mills. Ronald, their only child was born in 1939.

In 1942, Jack and his twin brother Dymetro (Mike) bought a dairy farm in Ladner B.C. Dairy farming was a 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., 7 days a week proposition. It was no easy task. Jennie and Jack also had fruit trees on their farm. It was a succulent treat when in the fall of each year Jennie and Jack would pick the fruit shortly before the fruit was fully ripened and sent it to relatives on the Prairies. No store bought fruit could compare with the fruit from the Kupchanko's at Ladner. After 10 years of

Jack and Jennie Kupchanko on their wedding day 1936.

dairy farming, they sold out and bought a share in the Two Hills hotel, then in 1955 they sold here and bought the Wainwright hotel. In 1961 they sold this hotel and retired to Victoria, B.C.

Before Jack's health failed they enjoyed travelling. One trip they took was to the Ukraine for a reunion with relatives. A comical event occurred on this particular trip and one should really hear Jennie tell it to fully appreciate the comedy of it all. It goes something like this: In the Ukraine it is traditional for people to greet as well as send off guests with gifts of food. On this particular occasion, Jennie's and Jack's suitcases were already bulging with their clothes and souvenirs they wanted to bring back to Canada. Nonetheless on their departure relatives and friends began giving them gifts of food. Jennie never being one to offend anyone graciously accepted these gifts, among which was a large cake and some goat's cheese. A person they had met in the Ukraine asked her to deliver the cheese to a friend in Calgary. With the exception of the cake which she carried, Jennie proceeded to stuff their suitcases with the food including the goat's cheese until all sides bulged. She secured the lot with some strapping and with the suitcases straining at the seams and cake in hand they boarded the train to return to Canada. The jostling on the train proved too exasperating so Jennie secreted the cake under the seat. To this day, somewhere in the great expanse of Russia the cake may still be travelling. The rest of the suitcases and food stuffs inside, including the goat's chesse finally succumbed to the pressure and the baggage handlers rough treatment. Upon arrival at the Edmonton Airport, Jennie and Jack found the suitcases had split their seams and the contents a mess. Having travelled during some pretty warm weather they also discovered that the cheese had "aged" before its time. Jennie immediately went into a major salvage operation and rescued what she could, including the cheese. True to her promise she delivered the goat's cheese to the friend in Calgay.

Jennie's husband is in poor health now and they are considering moving back to Two Hills to be near their son Ronald and his family.

Ronald moved to Two Hills shortly before his parents sold the farm in Ladner. He married Marlene Werenka in 1962. He worked first as a lab technician and presently in the purchasing department at the Two Hills Chemical Plant at Duvernay.

Ron and Marlene have three daughters, Karen, Leean and Lorna.

Jack and Jennie Kupchanko (1975).

MARTHA CHRAPKO

by Metro Chrapko

Martha Chrapko, the second youngest daughter of Simion and Pearl Chrapko was born in Luzan in 1919. As a child she attended school at Luzan, then the district school near Vegreville when her parents moved there in 1928.

After her parents passed away she stayed for a few months with her brother John and his wife Eva at Foisy.

John Fraresso and Martha (Nee Chrapko's Wedding (1937).

Martha and John Fraresso's family L. to R. — Suzanne, Martha, Rosemarie, Antony, Lucille and Frank. (1970).

She then moved to B.C. to stay with her sister Jenny Kupchanko. Martha recalls that it was difficult for a girl to find work in those days. It was not until sometime into the second World War and later that women got into the labour force to a greater degree. Nevertheless, she worked at whatever job was available and every opportunity that presented itself.

While at Jennie's she met John Fraresso. They were married in 1937. They made their home in New Westminster, B.C. where John worked at the mills. Later they moved to Trail, B.C. where they lived for seven years while John worked at the smelters. From Trail they returned to New Westminster where John again returned working at the mills. Later he took up wiring homes and carpentry, then after learning the trade began building and selling homes as an occupation.

John passed away in 1970.

Martha works in a lab at a nearby hospital and lives in New Westminster. John and Martha had two daughters, Lucille born in 1939 and Suzanne born in 1950.

Lucille married Frank (Tiny) lang and lives on a farm near Prince George, B.C. Frank also works as a heavy duty mechanic in Prince George. They have two children, Rosemarie Ann and Antony (Tony) Edward.

Rosemarie married Edward Bracey in 1977 and lives in Prince George.

Tony also lives and works in Prince George.

Suzanne married Lorne Piccolo in April 1977. They have a son Alexander. They live in Nelson B.C. and Lorne is apprenticing as a steam fitter.

MIKE CHRAPKO

by Anne Charpko

Mike was born November 19, 1908 in Barhmat, Bukowina, Austria. When he was five years old he came with his family to the grandfather's homestead on SE¼ 28-55-11-W4th. He attended Luzan School until 1920. He worked on the farm with his father until he was eighteen years old when he went to work for a farmer in Three Hills.

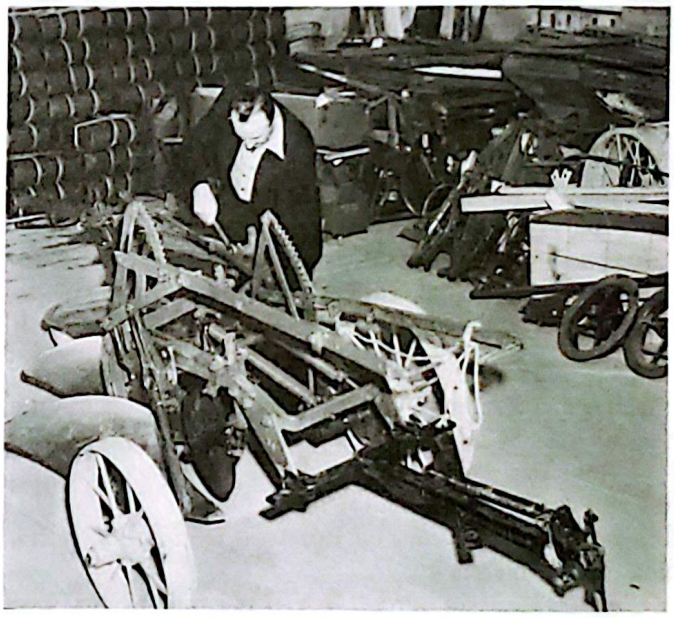
On his return home he met Anne Saganiuk at dances, fell in love and married her November 19, 1927 in the United Church. Vegreville.

Anne, the daughter of Lucas Saganiuk and Nellie Samograd, was born May 31, 1910 in Innisfree, Alberta. She attended the Sharantz in Naughton Glen.

Mike and Anne lived with Father on the farm during that winter. Next spring Father bought a farm in Vegreville and moved, leaving the homestead to brother John and Mike. John was away working in the mines so he sold his share to Mike for $1500.00.

Father (Samuel Chrapko) gave Mike one horse and Mike had one of his own. Mr. Lucas Saganiuk, Anne's father, wanted to give her an organ but she requested a horse instead. Lucas gave her a drill and Mike borrowed the other machinery he needed for farming from the neighbors. Lucas also gave her a cow and a calf. After the first crop all repairs were done with wires, home-made parts or brought to the blacksmith in Musidora.

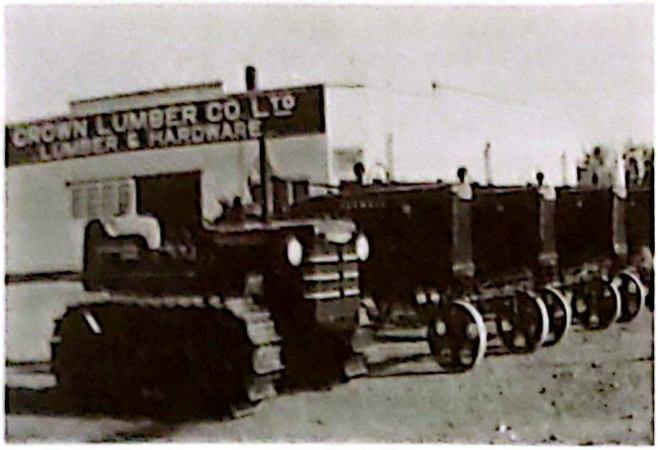
Mike made a cupboard for Anne in a granary. He put a glass door on it so she could display her fancy things.



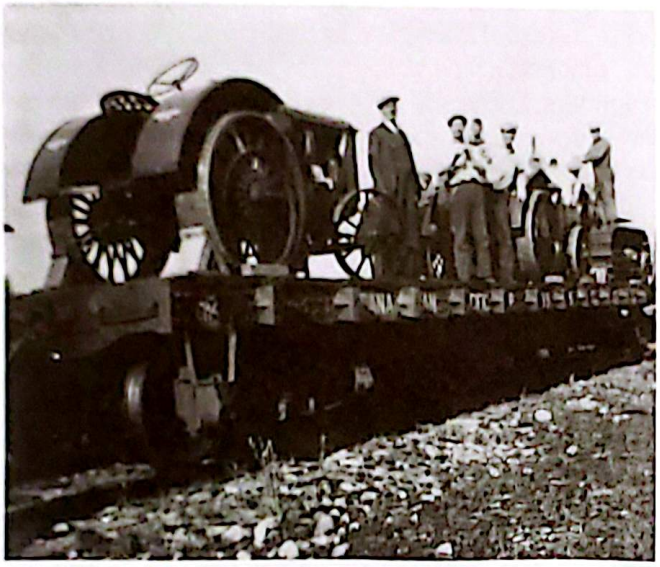
Mike Chrapko repairing a plow in his shop in Two Hills. (1940)

Mike and Anne stayed almost nine years on the farm. Walter was born May 10, 1929 and Orest December 25, 1933. Anne did all their sewing. She bought a Singer Sewing-machine for $15.00. Nothing was bought except shoes $1.95 a pair, and heavy coats. She would study the Eaton's catalogue for dresses $2.95, which she needed for dress-up occasions, weddings or dances.

In 1937 Mike and Anne moved to Morecambe where they bought a pool hall and a one-pump filling station. Anne would roll the 40-gallon drums to the tank



A display of Farmall tractors and a TD (track tractor) near the Crown Lumber store where Frank Petatsky was the manager. (1948)



A load of tractors on C.P.R. track in Two Hills. Mike is pouring gas into one before unloading. Note — there are no lugs on the wheels as yet.

to fill it. Mike was usually away selling Maytag washing machines and radios to the farmers. In his absence Anne racked balls in the pool hall and served gas.

After two years Mike sold out in Morecambe and became the International Implement dealer in Two Hills. His first customer was Joe Brosseau who bought a full line of IHC machinery.

In 1946 Mike turned the dealership to his son, Walter, and went into the hotel business, first in Wainwright, then Two Hills and finally East Coulee. He was in the middle of a sale transaction when he felt sick and died July 1962. he was interred in St. Michael, Alberta.

Anne completed the sale and stayed in Edmonton for one year. Then she came to Two Hills, built her home and still resides there.

Walter married Olga Kotowich February 1954 and has one son, Brian, one daughter, Brenda Nelson and one grandchild.

Orest married June Delawski in 1977 and has one daughter, Denise.

JOHN CHRAPKO SR.

by Anne Chrapko

Grandfather John Chrapko came from Barhmat, province of Bukowina, Austria, in 1911. He was an Immigration Officer working for the government. But like many others he decided to come to Canada and try a new life. He went to Germany, sailed to Montreal, took a train to Vegreville and filed for a homestead SE¼ 28-55-11-W4th, east of Duvernay. From Vegreville he walked to his homestead where he dug a cave in a hill and put a wooden front on it to keep out the cold. During the winter he cut logs to make his cabin.

His son and wife, Simion and Pearl, came to join him in 1913, with four children — Mary, John, Mike and Dan. Pearl was pregnant and was very sick all the time they crossed the Atlantic Ocean (14 days on the boat from Germany). She could not eat. They landed in Montreal, took a train to Vegreville and down to the cabin on the homestead. There they built a larger house — one room and an entrance. The stove was made of clay with a metal plate for the top. There was no oven, only grates for the wood and a can for ashes. The tin stovepipe went into the attic and the smoke escaped through the lapped boards of the roof. The floor was clay. To smoothen it, a mixture of dried horse droppings and clay was rubbed over it until it shone. There was a terrible odor until the floor dried! The walls were whitewashed and Mother mixed soot and water to paint. baseboards. They had home-made benches and a table, a tub for laundry and a washboard made of a grooved wooden plank.

Flies and mosquitoes were a-plenty! smudges were made to protect the stock from them. Twigs were piled and burned, then, cow dung was thrown over the coals. These smudges would smoke all night.

An adze (a hand-cutting tool having a blade at right angles with its handle and usually curved) dug the dirt around the roots of the trees. The sharp blade cut the roots. Father would wind a cable around the trunk and hooked it to a single tree which horses pulled until the tree was free. Then he would chop off the branches. The trunks were used for firewood or for logs used to build their buildings or for fences. With a drawknife he would peel the bark off. This was to keep them from rotting.

Buildings were made of logs, with no nails — just pegs. The logs were squared and dovetailed to fit. The cracks were filled with mud plaster. To Make this plaster a pit about a foot deep was dug and filled with yellow clay, straw and mixed with water. With pant legs rolled up and in barefeet they would tramp the mixture until it was like dough and easily handled.

Father broke the land with a hand plow. To smoothen the furrows, harrows made of pegs on heavy planks was drawn over them, and then floated with a heavy log. Seed was broadcast by hand, from a large bag slung over his shoulder. When ripe the grain was cut with a sickle, tied with twisted straw, stooked and left to dry. It was threshed with flails and hauled to Vegreville in bags.

Mother raised chickens. Every spring she would set 20 eggs under a hen for 21 days. Then the shells would crack open and the little chicks would hatch.

Life was different in those days — there was a lot of visiting. Lunches were served: onions with creamed cottage cheese, boiled eggs, and home-made braided bread (kolach). Chicken was served once a week for a treat. When pigs were butchered they made kobasa, blood sausage, hams and bacon and salted a lot of the meat.

They had no refrigerators then, but they had ice houses or dugouts. Every winter the ice on the river was cut into blocks and hauled to the ice houses. It was covered with sawdust and would last nearly all summer. The milk was strained through a cloth and put into milk pails which were then put down the well. The cream would rise to the top and the skim milk was drawn out through a tap, at the bottom. Mother would make cottage cheese with it.

There were no sheep on the farm, but, Mother would get fleece from her neighbors. She would wash it in cold water: hot water would have taken out the oil. Then Father and Mother would card it with home-made carders, spin it with a spinning wheel to make the yarn. Again, both Father and Mother would knit or crochet mitts, socks or sweaters. These were very warm and would last for such a long time.

More children were born to Father and Mother — Harry, Jennie, Martha and Elsie. They all attended school in Luzan which was not too far away. They got their mail in Duvernay and did their shopping in George Skakun's store.

In 1935 Father bought a farm in Vegreville and moved to it leaving the homestead to his sons John and Mike. Mother died in 1936 and Father in 1937.

WASYL CHERNIWCHAN

by Anne Drapaka

Wasyl Cherniwchan was born February 22, 1895 in Bukowina, Austria. He attended school for two years learning Ukrainian. Then Germany took over the province, thus ending his education. His father already had two sons in the army and did not want Wasyl conscripted, so sent him to Canada. In 1912 he landed in Halifax and entrained for Winnipeg where he spent a few days at the Immigration House before leaving for Vegreville, Alberta. He found employment in the Hayward Lumber yard in Vegreville.

In October he married Frozina Kabage of Brosseau, Alberta. She had been born in Bukowina on September 14, 1896 and had come to Canada with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Steve Kabage, in 1905, to settle on SW 12-56-12 W4.

Wasyl and Frozina lived in Vegreville for 2½ years before moving to SW 10-56-12 W4 where they lived with a brother-in-law, Peter Hnatiuk, before buying

Mr. Wasyl Cherniwchan and Mrs. Frozina Cherniwchan in 1931.

NE 13-56-12 W4 on the north shore of Brosseau Lake (then known as Little Fish Lake).

Wasyl died July 12, 1944. Frozina continued to farm there with her daughter, Anne, until in 1945 she sold to Steve Shuhany. With her son-in-law, Krezon Drapaka, she bought SW 36-56-12 W4 where she lived until 1974. She then moved to St. Paul, Alberta, where she still lives with Anne.

Anne, the only child of Wasyl and Frozina Cherniwchan, was born in the Vegreville Hospital June 29, 1918. She moved with her parents until they settled on the farm north of the lake. She attended Champlain School. When she was younger her father drove her, in winter, in a cutter, but in the summer she walked the 4½ miles. As she grew older she rode a horse. She recalls her teachers: Mr. Beckett, Mr. Gauthier, Mr. Daniel Gamache, Miss Robin and Miss Brosseau. In 1933, having reached her 15th birthday, she left school, to stay on the farm helping her mother.

Anne remembers the favorite pastimes of those early thirties. She would walk to dances at the Eskow Hall near Lac Sante, or, in a vacant house owned by Mr. Pundick. She attended the ball games and picnics at Champlain School. The "BIG DAY OF THE YEAR" was going to the Treaty at Saddle Lake where friends congregated to visit, to watch sports, the Indian games and dancing (sometimes joining in the Pow-wows), hearing the Tom-Toms beat, examine the teepees, and buying treats from the booths when she could afford to do so.

On November 8, 1936, Anne married Krezon Drapaka of Two Hills, in the Two Hills United Church, with Rev. Hannochko officiating.

KREZON DRAPAKA

by Anna Drapaka

Sidor Drapaka and Olivia Ursuliak were born in Shepenitz, Austria. They came to Canada in the early 1900's and settled on NW 32-55-12 W4, next to the quarter on which the Town of Two Hills is located.

Their son, Krezon, was born there November 25, 1910. He attended the old Two Hills School, situated on top of the hill on Sam Andriowski's farm. Adam sold this land to the town which is developing it. Krezon remem-

Krezon Drapaka threshing in early years on the farm.

Krezon Drapaka at the back and Mike Serna on the wheel in 1934.

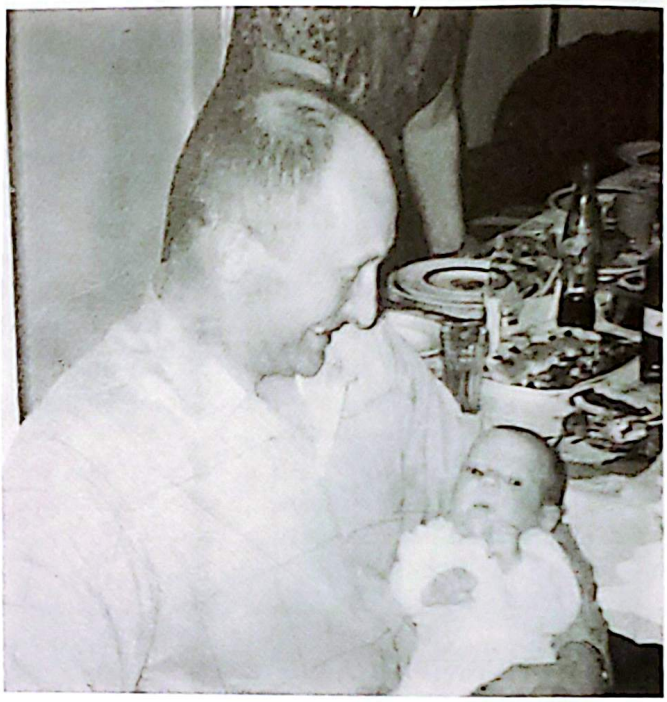
bers his teachers: Mr. Shoff (brother of Fred Shoff, first storekeeper of Two Hills), Powell, Gardiner and James Adam. He attended from 1917-1924, finishing in Grade 8.

After leaving school Krezon became choreboy for Richard Fife for a short time. When he was still 14 years old he went threshing for Joe Rioux. He remembers his team — a mule called "Old Jack" and a grey horse named "Buster". He had to fill a rack shaped like a basket, on a high wagon. This was a difficult task for a young boy. Occasionally, Mr. Louis Rioux, Joe's father, would feel sorry for Krezon, and would help him load. Krezon is still appreciative of this old man's generosity.

Joe Rioux kept Krezon on as a hired man on the farm. In 1928 Joe opened a livery barn in Two Hills, which had just been founded, and Krezon was barn-boss for a year. He then hired on as carpenter's helper when building the Two Hills Hotel for Korpan and Hamar.

By now Krezon wanted to be a farmer. He rented a half-section from Steve Hamar, one mile south and one

Anne and Krezon Drapaka on their 25th wedding anniversary.



Krezon's birthday present given him on November 25, 1965 by his son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Drapaka - Pamela.

At the right is Pamela Drapaka, in her Ukrainian costume, 1978.

mile east of Two Hills, across from Jack Forbes. He farmed there for two years, after which he rented SE 8-56-12 W4 from Mrs. Eliuk. At this time he purchased an International D30 truck and hauled grain and livestock for the local farmers (for seven years).

After marrying Anne Cherniwchan, in 1936, he moved to her father's farm, NE 13-56-12 W4. He and Anne lived there until 1945 when he and Mrs. Frozina Cherniwchan bought SW 36-56-12 W4 from Mr. Alphonse Brosseau and they moved into the large house that had been built there. Krezon also bought NE 26-56-12 W4. They remained in the Champlain District until October 31, 1974 when they moved to St. Paul. They are now both retired.

Krezon and Anne have two children:
Alvin was born in Myrnam on April 27, 1940. He married Joyce Watrich from Glendon on July 20, 1963. They gave Krezon a marvellous birthday present in 1965, when their daughter, Pamela, was born November 25th.

Shirley was born in St. Paul on March 5, 1943. She married Don Horban of Glendon, has one daughter, Teryl, born June 1, 1971. They live in Edmonton.

Krezon had many interests in Champlain. He was president of their local FUA; Secretary of the local UGG; director of the Champlain Community Center which he helped to establish with the help of Mike Mack; Secretary for Rural Electrification Association; secretary for the Champlain School for 12 years.

Anne was also a director of the Farm Women's Union of Alberta and worked for the community center.

HISTORY OF JACK AND AMY CHESTER FAMILY

by Mrs. Dick Chester

In 1904, Jack and Amy Chester, with their three little girls, Susan, Nancy and Mary, immigrated to Canada from New Zealand.

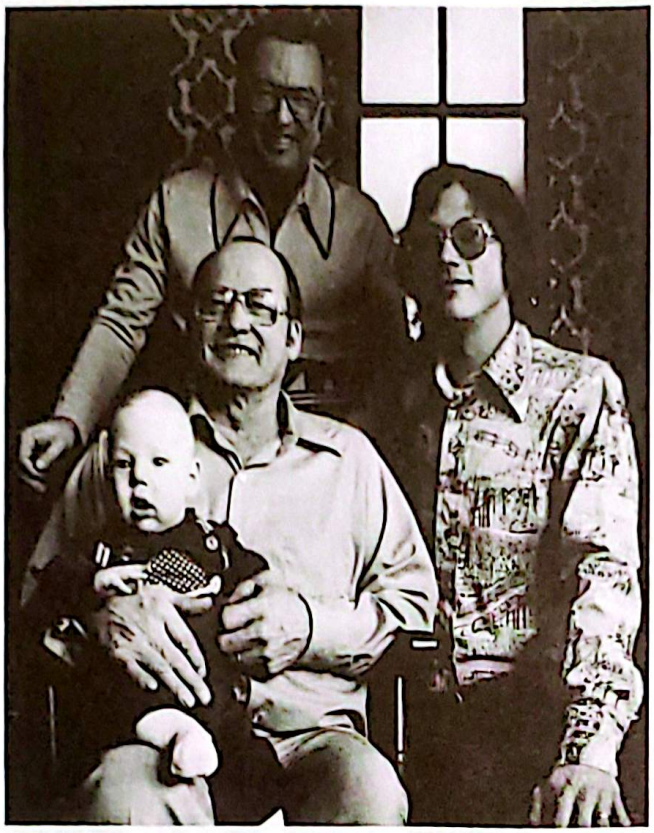
Like all new comers they stayed in Immigration House in Strathcona (South Edmonton). After a brief stay, they travelled many miles with horses and wagon, heavily laden with supplies as this had to last for at least six months.

Jack Chester (taken in Edmonton).

Jack and Amy Chester with a bumper crop of vegetables.

The survivors of Jack and Amy Chester. Left to right: Dick, Ivy, Susan, Ethel, Amy, Edith and Rose.

Jack and Amy Chester's home on the homestead.



The four generations of Chesters. Sitting is Dick with great-grandson Benjamin. Standing is Eugene (Dick's son) and Glenn (Dick's grandson).

On May 24th, 1906, the weary travellers arrived on their homestead, which was to be their home for the rest of their lives. They were Chesteville's very first settlers. Spring was extremely late that year. The Chester lake, as it was later named, was coated with ice which was unusual for that time of the year.

It was quite a way of life for early settlers to live in a dugout, while a better home was being built. Chesters lived in one of these for several months. It was in this temporary dwelling that Amy gave birth to a son (John Junior) — their first Canadian baby — and the first born in the Chesterville country! There were nine girls and two boys born to the Chester family. With the exception of the first three girls, all were born on the old homestead. The names of the other children, are Ivy, Amy, Rose, Dick, Ethel, Edith and Elizabeth.

The Chesters were good neighbors and did what they could to help each and every new homesteader who settled in after them.

A school had to be built. In 1913 Jack Chester and Jenny Hutchinson were instrumental in setting up the Chesterville school. The Chesterville Community is situated four miles south of Lafond and approximately ten miles east of Brosseau.

In February 1954 Jack Chester passed away, his wife Amy in June of the same year. They were laid to rest in the St. Paul Protestant graveyard.

The old homestead carries many memories of hopes and disappointments, joys and sorrows. Overlooking the lake, the little log house still stands, proudly a part of Alberta's Heritage.

HISTORY OF JOHN CHESTER

by Therese Chester (Mrs. Dick)

John Chester, son of John and Amy Chester, was born in Alberta August 3, 1906, in a small community called Chesterville — named after John Chester Senior. The old homestead is located some six miles south of Lafond. At that time Lafond was non-existant.

There wasn't any comfort for John's mother when he was born as she brought her son into the world in a cave — a crude dwelling that was Chester's living quarters, while their log house was being built. The courage these pioneers had is incomprehensable. His three sisters, Sue, Nancy and Mary looked after him while his mother and Dad worked at putting a home together.

Time doesn't stand still, for in no time at all John was old enough to help with the daily chores. At long last a school was built in Chesterville. On July 1st, 1915, it opened its doors to children of the district. Among the twenty children who started that day were the four Chesters, Mary, John, Ivy and Amy. John was nine years old. The late Mrs. Jenny Hutchinson was the first school teacher. She used to call John, Sonny.

There was never a dull moment on the old homestead. The family was getting bigger, mostly girls, until one day in September 1914, there was a little brother for John. They named him Dick.

In the spring of the year, it was fun for John and his sisters to hunt up the new born calves. The younger children fed the chicks and ducklings. Some of the turkey hens would stray away, so the nest had to be found. By being patient and following the hen, the nest was found somewhere in the bushes. Many a coyote had himself a turkey dinner, with an omelette as a chaser!!

In the fall of the year, the colts were taken away from the mares and put into the barn. It was a riot teaching them to lead. They had to be taken to the lake for water. John would pull and tug at the rope while one of his sisters smacked the colt's behind. A couple of days of this and the colt lead beautifully!

John Chester Breaking a horse called George. (1936)

George after John got the best of him.

At the age of 13, John and his sister Sue hauled feed from Beauvallon, some 25 or 30 miles away. That was the year of the hard winter in 1919. Due to no rain, there was a crop failure. Not enough feed was available to go around. The snow came early and lasted till late spring. Mr. Chester would pull bundles out of the snow and John and Sue would load up the rack. It was a long drive for two so young, in the bitter cold. Sue and John would walk behind the team to keep warm. It was real rewarding when they would drive into the yard and the cattle would come bawling to meet them. It was a task to keep them away while unloading. Some of the cattle had been brought up to Spruce Grove — twenty of whom died on that trip.

At the age of eighteen John went on his own. He worked as a farm hand here and there. As a pastime a lot of the young men would do a bit of boxing. John took this up quite seriously and become quite good at it. St. Paul was the nearest town. A committee would sponsor a boxing match to raise funds for something or other. John competed in some of those. There was one match when John's opponent was a far better trained man then himself. He was a black boy from Edmonton. John thought he had met his waterloo!! Many times he felt like giving up. However being stubborn and able to take punishment he came out the winner.

John had no fear of horses and could tame the wildest one. Oh, he hit the dust many times but that didn't stop him. He broke many a saddle horse for himself and neighbors.

Everyone settles down sooner or later. John married the very attractive Evelyn Ford. They had two sons, Kenneth and Donald. When the second world war broke out in September 1939, John was one of the first to enlist. In November of the same year he went overseas with the Edmonton 49th Battalion. The next six years were spent in the Army. During that time he was slightly wounded with shrapnel. The war ended in May 1945 and thousands of the boys came home. John was one of them, handsome in his Corporal uniform and proud for serving his country well. The war had its toll on many of our young couples, getting acquainted all over again, making adjustments which were not easy. Many marriages failed. John and Evelyn's was one of them.

Farming was no longer appealing to John. After selling his land and farm machinery he and his two sons came to reside in Edmonton. He worked for Pool Construction for a short while and became labour foreman. While working for that company he met and married Elsie Wager, a widow with three children, a son and two daughters. John and Elsie had three of their own by this marriage, Diane, Audrey and Douglas. The family moved on a farm near Perryvale a short distance from Athabasca. Unfortunately things did not work out too well and once again the marriage failed.

Douglas, John Chester, Audrey, Dianne and Chester. (1968)

Back in Edmonton he now was employed by another construction company. He boasted about the great job they did on the Brazo Dam. Being labor foreman he was proud of the fact that the job was completed three weeks sooner than expected.

John had a good eye for women, so once again joined the rank of matrimony. This time it was Agnes Readman, a wonderful person, the mother of a grown family and several grandchildren. John and Agnes had ten happy years together. He retired at the age of 69. Being a handy man, he kept himself busy building cabinets, end tables, etc. He spent many hours in his workshop.

His health began to fail. He developed lung cancer and died August 1979 at the age of 73. He is survived by his wife Agnes, 5 children, 8 grandchildren and 1 great grandson.

HENRY CHAILLER

by Beatrice Bruneau (Chailler)

My father Henry Chailler was the son of Ulric Chailler and Basilice Frenette. He was born in North Adams, Massachusett, in the year 1874 on the 16th of August.

The family came to Canada to a town called Chartierville in the province of Quebec, in the year 1875.

My mother Cordelia Chailler second cousin of Dad, was born in Chartierville in the year 1879. She married Ovide Smith of La Patrie, a neighboring town, but he died after 11 months of married life.

In 1901 Mother and Dad were married in the St. Jean Baptiste Church of Emberton, P.Q. on the 24th of June. Father Tremblay performed the ceremony. For their honeymoon they went to Ste. Anne de Beaupre, P.Q.

In April of the year 1911, having heard about the west, they came to Duvernay, Alberta where Mother's brother, Sylva, had adventured before.

After being on the train for seven days with six (6) children; the oldest being eight years of age and the youngest being 1½ years old, they landed at Vegreville, which was the end of the railway, then. They went to a hotel owned by a Mr. Dumais and they were served breakfast there. Needless to say it must have been a treat to eat at the table after such a long ride on the train.

From there the stage coach took them to a Mr. Elzear Moisan, a half-brother of Ferdinand, who lived approximately 35 miles from Vegreville. This Moisan family were good friends of Mother & Dad from down east. And here I would like to mention, this Mrs. Moisan (nee Laura Roberge) was a seamstress and had made both of Mother's wedding dresses, and Mother's black mourning dress when her first husband, Ovide Smith, passed away. Would you believe she had made those dresses for $5.00 each and finished seams were all done by hand. Mother had brought her wedding hat out west with her. It was a wide brim beige coloured hat with a long feather of the same colour on the side.

The family lived there until Dad built a 2-room house on their homestead, N.E.-9-55-11 west of 4th meridian, which was 7 miles east and 2 miles north of Two Hills. They stayed there for 5 years, then Dad bought a farm 2 miles south and 1 mile east of Duvernay, land that belonged to a Mr. Leonard Girard. We lived there for two years.

Five more children were born while we lived in Duvernay. While living on the homestead, we attended the Luzan School. The first teacher was a Mr. Smith who spoke a little french; and he would also visit the sick as he had some knowledge of medicine. Other teachers were Mr. Middleton, Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Harry Tomkins.

The first year Dad was on the homestead, he had borrowed Mr. Moisan's horses and plow and had broken 8 acres of land.

Dad spent his winters in Bush Camps with his brother-in-law Sylva, and a neighbour, named Gaulin. In the spring he was able to buy a team of horses, a wagon, and machinery to work his land. (Prices were not like today.)

Mother always had a big garden, chickens, and a cow which provided the family with milk, butter, cream, and buttermilk.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Cahillier and their daughter Emma taken in Vegreville (1919).

School was very restricted then, they only had classes during the summer months. The students names were Chailler, Roberge, two families of Moisan, Sirois, Harrissons and Orleskis. On Sundays when we went to Church at Brosseau, we'd cross the River on the ferry, which was operated by Mr. Basil Theroux for whom Dad worked during the summer. Dad would also freight groceries with his team of horses from Vegreville for the stores of the time.

Dad was a very good soloist and sang in church, for several years. Father Leduc was pastor then, and Mrs. Jean-Batiste Vincent was the organist. In the choir were names like St. Hilaire, Dr. Hardy and wife, Antoine Breault & wife, and the Despins family. They provided beautiful Midnight Masses. These are events which the older children of the family can remember.

As for social activities, they were few. One thing is that during lent, they had a basket social, this must have lit the eyes of the young men as they bid on whose basket Miss so & so had prepared. Then in the summer they celebrated the feast of St. Jean Batiste on the 24th of June, which included ball games, other amusements and a big outdoor supper.

For Homemade medicine, I can remember Mother using Yarrow weed for fever; she made tea out of it and we'd drink that. Mother also had camphor blocks

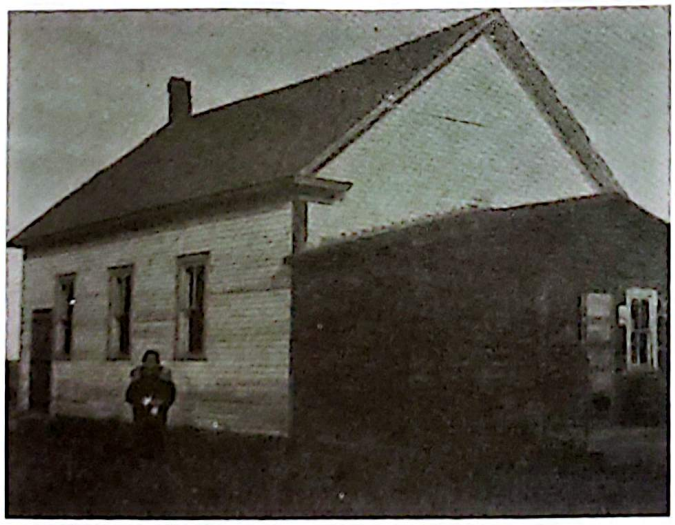
onhand; I can remember wearing them in tiny bags tied to our underclothes to keep our nasal passages clear; it was also used in breaking into tiny crystals and mixing with olive oil or oil from the goose when roasted. Another remedy was the good old fashioned mustard plaster for chest colds.

We didn't think of buying clothes then. Mother had brought her sewing machine (NEW HOME, was the name), a cream separtor, a butter churn, and a weaving machine. This provided for all the necessities of life. We may not have been rich but we always had plenty to eat. Going barefeet in those days was a common thing. We'd wear our shoes to go to church on Sundays. The names of people living at Duvernay then, were Lapierres, Theroux, Desrosiers, Lambert, Moisan, Vennes, Gaulin, Chouinard, Becker, and Louis Rioux who had a general store. At Brosseau there are names like Hardy, Vincent, Ouellette, Lavallee, and Edmond Brosseau, father of sons Alphonse, Jos, Edmond, and Johnnie. In 1911, Mr. Francois-Xavier Boileau was postmaster at Duvernay, Later it was Mrs. Mathias Theroux. After we left in 1919, Mrs. Barnes (nee Delima Lappierre) was postmistress for 32 years. She had earned herself an award from Premier Manning.

Here is the list of the Chailler children:

Emma — born 23 May 1903 — married Isidore Houle of Morinville, Alberta — had one daughter Madeleine. Isidore passed away in the early 70's. Emma lives in Calgary, Alta.

Jeanne — born August 11, 1904 — married Adelard Houle, brother of Isidore — had six sons — Henry, Maurice, Marcel, Normand Raymond, and Daniel. Both passed away and buried in the Morinville cemetery.



Jeanne (Chaillier) Houle standing in front of the old Duvernay school which she attended till they left the district in 1919.

Berthe — born November 29, 1905 — married Joseph Brooks of Bluesky, Albeta — had seven children, Jeannine, Irene, Gerald, Robert, Philip, Hubet, and Yvonne (deceased at the age of 6) — both reside in Falher.

Henry — born March 25, 1907 — married Ada Dunn of Vancouver, B.C. had four children, Raymond, Sylvia, Grant & Louise. Henry passed away in 1975 and is buried in Nanaimo, B.C. He had worked in Chemainus for MacMillan Bloedel for a good number of years.

Alexandre — born July 7, 1908 — married Yvonne Morin in 1938 — she died from giving birth to a son (also deceased) — second marriage to Lily Lacourse in 1943 — have 2 children Denis and Louise. They lived on the farm until retired and moved into town of Falher, Alberta.

Juliette — born November 10, 1909 — married Alphonse Courchesne. Alphonse deceased in 1979 was elevator agent for several years, then Hotel manager at Falher for 6 years, moved back on the farm until he suffered a stroke and was hospitalized until he died — have three children Normane, Pauline & Raymond (deceased in 1973 at the age of 30.)

Octave — first born at Duvernay December 31, 1911 — married Marguerite Bruneau of Jean Cote, Alberta — have 7 children, Fernand, Paul, Lucille, Andre, Lionel, Marie & Daniel is still farming a portion of the Town is built on his property. Octave and Marguerite live in Falher, Alta.

Octave Chailler and his wife Marguerite and family; from L. to R. Fernand, Paul, Lucille, Andre, Leonel, Marie, and Daniel.

Gerard — born February 7, 1913 — married Antoinette Pelletier of Falher in 1935 — no children from that marriage — second marriage to Betty ???, have three sons Norman, Gordon, and Richard, lives in Penticton, B.C. This one worked in sawmills as a millright most of his life.

Beatrice (Chaillier) and husband Emile Bruneau with their four children taken in 1975 a family re-union. L. to R. Rene, Irene, Dora and Gilbert.

Elzear — born July 2, 1914 — died at 8 months.

Beatirce — born November 24, 1915, married to Emile Bruneau brother of Marguerite (died March 1979) have four children Rene, Irene, Dora, and Gilbert. I live in Falher, Alta.

Cecile — born November 27, 1917 — married Joseph Boisvert of Falher have one daughter Doreen, both live in the same town.

Pauline — born in Morinville January 2, 1920 — died at 8 months and buried in the cemetery of that town.

Germaine — born November 29, 1922 at Friedenstal, Alberta — married Jean-Louis Dumont of Falher — have three children Donald, Judith and Susan. They live in Prince Geroge, B.C.

My parents left Duvernay in the fall of 1919 and moved to Morinville, Alberta. We stayed there for two years and moved to Bluesky, Alta., where Dad worked in a sawmill with Arthur Mercier. It was during those years that my youngest sister was born.

After four years we returned to Morinville for two more years, then moved to Falher in the Spring of 1927 and have been here ever since.

Dad worked on the farm, which was his joy of driving his tractor, until his sight began to bother him thus being forced to retire and from then on, he became sick and died of cancer in July 1956 at the age of 81 years. Mother passed away at the age of 86 in 1965. Both buried in the Falher Cemetery.

After my husband passed away, my son Gilbert, who is a carpenter by trade, converted my two car garage which is joined to the house into a nice little suite for my sister, Juliette. He, Gilbert has taken over her farm. We live contented in our own apartments surrounded by relatives and friends. We welcome anyone who wants to drop in for a cup of tea or coffee or talk of old times.

I would also like to mention here, that Dad being a bushman (or lumberjack) by nature, has spent a good many winters making (ties) for the Railway, thus giving work to several young men in the district of Falher. For those who have handled the broad axe, know it wasn't an easy job. In the fall after harvesting and the field work was over, he would start making plans for the winter, could we call it a bug? Myself, I have spent several winters with him cooking for the men. We've seen days when it was too cold to put the horses on the road. It was a way of life and people were happy. Mother would be at home with one of the boys and Paul Moisan, a young man who lived with us for several years. They would look after the stock, haul wood to be sawed into burning wood, and also provide us with an ice supply for the following summer. So many things could be told about a family growing up but I would not permit myself such a lengthy space, however, Dad would come out in the spring, happy to be home again with a supply of groceries for the summer months and prepared for seeding time. Life was good seeing that in the spring young calves, piglets, chickens, turkeys, geese and even ducks would put life on the farm.

Another thing I could mention is that there was a triple wedding in our fmaily in 1936, these being Emile to I, Cecile to Jos Boisvert, and Octave to Marguerite Bruneau. We also celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary together, in the same church, in Falher. Our last anniversary being the 42nd was the last one celebrated all together.

Mr. & Mrs. Henry Chaillier on their 50th wedding anniversary in 1951. Mr. Chaillier was 77 and his wife was 72. Sitting on the right side of them is their daughter Emma and son Gerald.

"SON OF THE AULD SOD"

by A Friend

I will attempt to write about Charles Francis Callahan, a well known personality of the Brosseau district. We do not know too much of his early childhood and youth, excepting that he was from Boston, Mass; born January 2, 1884 of Irish descent, had received an excellent education.

Charles Francis Callahan 1885-1965 long time employee of the Brosseau merchants.

Charlie did reminisce about a few of his earlier experiences. Being a wonderful tenor he took part in minstrel shows in Boston. Also he went "politicking" with Joseph Kennedy (Father of President John F. Kennedy) and with Jackie Onassis' grandfather. He was always an ardent baseball fan and until in his sixties, still enjoyed playing probably due to having been a member of a ball team in Boston.

He came out to visit his brother Tom in Brosseau with his father and took such a likeing to this locality that he never returned to the United States to live. He visited Boston once after but could not get back to that style of life.

He obtained employment with Alphonse T. Brosseau and from then on he became a true friend to all members of the Brosseau clan. He was specially fond of children, no matter of what nationality, and he dispensed candy to them as if they were his best customers. No one in genuine need of help ever found a deaf ear there. He was a staunch catholic and his well-trained singing voice often delighted the parishioners of our parish. One of his special friends was Father Hugo Doyle, who later became Monsignor Doyle. Another one was Cardinal McGuigan.

Tom Callahan, brother of Charles F. Callahan, taken on his farm in Brosseau in 1940. NW¼-12-56-12-W4.

He was a real close friend of Joseph Brosseau's and many of the older generation such as Ralph Steinhauer. We would listen to him as he spoke not only English but Cree or Ukrainian to his customers. Ralph gets a charge reminiscing about the "Spitoon" competition in the old Brosseau store. Joe Brosseau had a special chair he occupied whenever he was there. Charlie would sit on the counter on the opposite side and there was a spitoon midway between the two. Both chewed tobacco while talking over the affairs of the day. Zing! One would spit into the spitoon. "I'll bet you five cents I can outspit you", and zing went more spittle. The young folks watching were in awe as to their accuracy.

Besides chewing tobacco Charlie enjoyed a good cigar — "White Owl" but abhorred cigarettes. He often said, "I would not sell the disgusting things if they were not in demand". How he would be shocked if he saw their present popularity, especially among women.

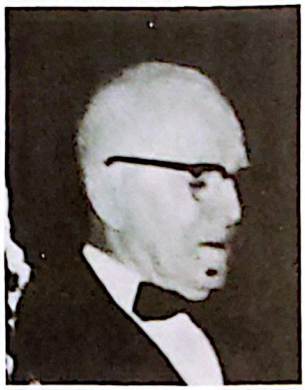
Another popular pastime was throwing horseshoes. He had set up spikes at the east side of the store and the shout "Ringer" echoed and re-echoed thru the valley. Other so-called experts were Delphis Bienvenue, George Emes, and Tobin Brunelle.

In 1926 Alphonse Brosseau left his store to Charlie. After the road was built north from the bridge, in 1930, business dwindled to a standstill although he still ran the post office. In 1933 he closed the old store and moved up the hill to a building (previously owned by Mr. Gadbois and then Mrs. Chouinard) which had been moved. He operated a small grocery store there and ran the post office until he sold the business to Mr. Gareau.

However, he did not abandon the Brosseau's. He went to work for Alphonse T. Brosseau in St. Paul and when Alphonse took over his store in Bonnyville, moved there. Even after his retirement he would spend his evenings in the store, arranging the merchandise.

In 1965 he took ill and passed away April, 1965. His memory will be dear to us all!

The sound of song and whistling filled the old store as Charlie went about doing his work. Old Irish Ditties were his favorites. Often to the accompaniment on a piano or to his singing he would do a "soft shoe" routine.



Charles Callahan singing with the Bonnyville Choral Group, 1960.

Father Campeau, Charlie Callahan and Joe Brosseau in the Brosseau residence, 1940.

Although Charlie never drank he could imitate a drunk to perfection. Sometimes we were almost sure he had imbibed extensively and was greatly "impaired".

Until his seventies, in Bonnyville, he still sang with a choir at performances.

ANTHONY DESAULNIERS

by Anthony Desaulniers

In 1910, Mr. Anthony Desaulniers with his parents, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Desaulniers, and other children, Albert, Dulice, Flore, Joseph and Richard left Shawinigan Falls, Quebec to join his three brothers Rene, Lucien and Adrien on the homestead, east of Lafond. This locality was inconvenient, far from church, school and store so his father bought another quarter of land situated directly across the road from the Lafond church. The family moved there.

On November 27, 1928 Anthony married Germaine Bussiere(daughter of Oliva Bussiere and Caselie Toutant) born in St. Casimir, Quebec April 28, 1905. Her father had come West in 1910 to homestead east of St. Paul.

Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Desaulniers lived on a farm until 1941 where he was also a truck driver. Their daughter, Angele, was born November 20, 1929 and their son, Germain on May 30, 1931.

In 1919 back row l. to r. — Victor Caron, Richard Desaulniers, father Thomas Desaulniers and mother Mrs. Desaulniers; front row l.to r. — Anthony Desaulniers, Pierre holding his son Julien, Mrs. Pierre Cote with baby Onias, and Richard Desaulniers.

Anthony Desaulniers and his bride Germaine Buisiere, November 27, 1928.

In 1941 Anthony enlisted in the Royal Canadian Army Service Corps (RCASC) in Edmonton, took his basic training in Camrose, advanced training in Red Deer and mechanic training in Hamilton, Ontario. When he arrived in Aldershot, England he was assigned to a barber shop. He remained barbering there until he was sent back to Canada because of Arthritis and was discharged March, 1944. He was then given a choice to go to a trade school for mechanics or barberring. He chose the latter and got his certificate. He returned to St. Paul and opened a shop in his house where he was barber until 1940. He was forced to retire at that time because of a heart condition. He can take life easy now that he has retired.

In 1968 — seated l. to r. — Laurent Duschenau, his wife Angele (nee Desaulniers), Mrs. Desaulniers, Yolande Duschenau, Anthony Desaulniers, Mrs. Germain Desaulniers (nee Laurette D'Aigle) and Germain Desaulniers. Children to the left are the Duschenau's and to the right the Desaulniers.

The younger Desaulniers children of Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Desaulniers — back row l. to r. — Flore and Dulice; front row l. to r. — Joseph, Anthony and Richard, 1910.

The daughter, Angele Duchesneau, operates "Angele's Fashions" in St. Paul but lives on the farm. She has nine children.

Germain married Laurette D'Aigle and lives in St. Paul where he is manager of the Credit Union, and is with the A.C.F.A. (Association Canadienne Francaise d'Alberta), Chamber of Commerce etc. He has three children.

Anthony and Germaine are proud of their twelve grand-children and eight great-grandchildren.

ARTHUR DROLET

by Mathilda Blanchette

Baie St. Paul is a beautiful spot on the north shore of the St. Lawrence River, east and north of Quebec City. This is where Arthur Drolet was born in 1947. He left home to find work in Sudbury, Ontario where he met and married Severine Girard.

Colonizers were canvassing the eastern countries for settlers who might be interested to homestead in the West, where land was cheap. Arthur responded and in April 1904, he travelled by train to the end of the line, which was Edmonton. Accompanied by Ferrier and

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Drolet and family on the homestead 1914. Standing — Marilda, Edouard, Arthur; Seated — Jeanne, Mathilda, Hermine; Helene on Father's knee; Gabrielle held by Mother.

Marilda Blouin and Mathilda Blanchette.

Mr. Arthur Drolet.

August Ouellette, Abel Girard, Pete Flamand, Cuillier, Cloutier, Arthur he came to Brosseau to file a homestead on SW 14-56-12-W4th. They came on a scow down the North Saskatchewan River.

In August 1904, his wife with the children Edouard, Marilda, Arthur and four-month old Jeanne, accompanied by her Mother Mrs. Abel Girard, and her sister, Mrs. Flamand, came to join him. Again they came down the river on a scow operated by Mr. Lambert of South Bend.

Arthur worked hard to prove his homestead and make a living for his family. More children came: Mathilda, Hermine, Alexandre, George, Helene and Gabrielle.

In 1914 the Drolet family moved to Lac Bellevue and in 1925 to St. Paul. There he built a livery barn and when it burned down he went to live with his son Edouard until his death on May 8, 1948, shortly after his 100th birthday.

The daughter Mrs. Mathilda Blanchette tells these stories of her memories of Brosseau:

The first school wasn't in the center of the district so it was moved to SW¼ 11-56-12-W4th in 1911, where Mr. Alphonse Gallant was the teacher. For the first day the floor had been scrubbed until it was almost white. The children were afraid to walk on it with their bare feet in case they dirtied it. When the inspectors came to visit they brought a big box of toys donated by the federal government. Her sister was given a tea set which she still cherishes.

One day the Drolet's and the Flamant's went berry picking and left the children at home. They were playing in the yard when the Bramley's, neighbors, dropped in. Little Johnny Flamand, three years old, with a diaper tied around his head, and unnoticed by anyone, followed him. His absence wasn't noticed until the parents came home in the evening. They searched all night and could not find him. Next morning Hormidas Cuillier, on horseback, saw the white diaper moving in a grain field. It was Johnny, mosquito-bitten but unharmed.

The Survivors of Mr. and Mrs. Drolet were:
Marilda Blouin, still going strong at 80.
Jeanne Alain deceased in 1977.
Mathilda Blanchette is 73 and living in St. Paul.
Hemine Blanchette passed away in 1975.
Helene Auclair in Edmonton.
Edouard deceased, had married Yvonne Doucet.
Arthur married Alexandrine Boivin.
Alexandre, Elise Cote.

ALBERT DIDIER

by Bernice Didier

Born in Olga, N. Dakota, Nov. 10, 1884: came to Saskatchewan with his parents as a boy. At the age of 14, his father was killed in a logging accident so, being the eldest of 9 children, he had to help support the family.

In 1911, he married Harriet Coutu, eldest daughter of Elzear Coutu. They had 3 sons, Ernest, Herman & Eugene. Harriet passed away in 1923. He came to Alberta the following year and worked for Joe Brosseau. His sons, Ernest & Herman, joined him in 1925 but Eugene stayed with his maternal grandparents in Sask. and grew up there. Herman passed away in 1932 after a lengthy illness.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Didier and grandsons (1963).

Four generations: Ronald Didier (grandson), Albert Didier (grandfather), Ernest Didier (father), Great grandchildren — Holly, Donnie, Darci.

Albert married Daisy Marsh, the youngest daughter of Joe Marsh of Foisy, Alberta. They continued farming in this area until, in 1934, they bought NE¼ 28-55-12-W4th and a fraction of SE¼ 33-55-12-W4th. There they built a house and took up residence.

Upon retirement from farming in 1949, they sold their land to Wm. Chudyk. After a 2 yr. absence, they returned to settle in Duvernay on lots bought from Frank Lapierre. Albert worked as janitor at the Western Chemical Plant after it opened. He retired in 1954 on his 70th birthday. They continued raising chickens until the spring of 1957. In 1973, they entered a nursing home in Edmonton and she is still in the city. Albert never drove a car and never drove a tractor.

Albert had 3 sons. Eugene lives in Port Alberni, B.C., Herman passed away Dec. 9, 1932.

Albert passed away May 2, 1980.

ERNEST DIDIER

by Bernice Didier

Ernest was born in Beauchamp, Sask. June 22, 1913. He came to Alberta to join his father in 1925. He worked at different jobs in the area, but is best remembered for his music and baseball playing. He married Bernice Peterson, daughter of Andy Peterson & Eleanor Whelen, Oct. 1939. In the fall of 1942, they bought the Brosseau Store from Armand Labby, and remained there until the fall of 1949, when they moved to operate a garage at Mundare, Alta. After 18 mos. in Mundare, they moved to Edmonton. He worked at elevator and escalator installations until retirement in 1975. Bernice worked in the Edmonton Post office until her retirement in 1975.

Richard, Bernice, Ernest, Ronald, Dolores and Gary Didier.

Shannon, Bernice, Ernest, Clayton, Angela Tkachuk, Donald, Darci, Holly Didier grandchildren.

They sold their home in Edmonton in 1976 and after a winter away, used Albert's former house in Duvernay, as a summer place. They have now purchased the former convent in Brosseau as a permanent residence. They have 4 children; Ronald in Red Deer, Richard at Ardrossan, Dolores Tkachuk, Sherwood Park, Gary in Spruce Grove.

DESROSIERS IN DUVERNAY

by Emilda Desrosiers

The first Desrosiers to homestead in the area of South Bend, (now called Duvernay) was George Desrosiers in 1903. He took SW 22-55-12-W4th. In 1905 Joseph Desrosiers homesteaded NW 14-55-12-W4th and Ovide took SW 14-55-12-W4th. Adelard filed on SW-21-55-11-W4th.

Joseph Desrosiers had ten children:
Ovide married Eva Johnson.
George married Clarisse Theroux.
Emilda married Phillipe St. Hilaire.
Adelard married Emelda Beaudette.
Louisa married Wilfred Lefebvre.
Orise married Paul Lefebvre.
John married Hazel.
Elphege married Rachel Piche.

Adelard Desrosiers and his three sisters: Orise Lefebvre, Emilda St. Hilaire and Louisa Lefebvre.

Eugene married Annette Pare.
Wilfred married Agnes Garneau
Albert married Thelma Garneau.

Residents of this area remember Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Desrosiers living on Section 25-55-12-W4th for many years, selling to Mike Ruptash and moving away.

Mr. & Mrs. Adelard Desrosiers, 1943.

Adelard Desrosiers (1887-1957) married Emilda Beaudette (1897) in Beauvallon, Alberta and lived in Duvernay. We lived right behind Mr. & Mrs. Loius Rioux's and next door to the Lapierre's. We were there for two years. Our son, Florian, was born there.

We then moved to Morinville, Alberta, where Adelard worked for Eugene Cournoyer as a mechanic. Our daughter, Florence, was born there.

This was the time of the bad flu, Spanish Influenza, after World War I, when everyone had to help look after the sick people. It was terrible, as whole families were wiped out with it.

Seven years later we moved back to Duvernay. We lived on a farm right across the road from Joe Rioux, SW 23-55-12-W4th. The children attended the Duvernay School. We often walked two miles to church, and then the two miles back home.

We moved to Two Hills in 1926. Shortly after we were there the CPR railroad building crews and the grain elevator builders came. As there were no restaurants, we used part of our house as a restaurant. My sister Exilla, came to help us. Some days we fed 90 to 100 people.

Groceries were freighted from Vegreville, by George Bourget Trucking.

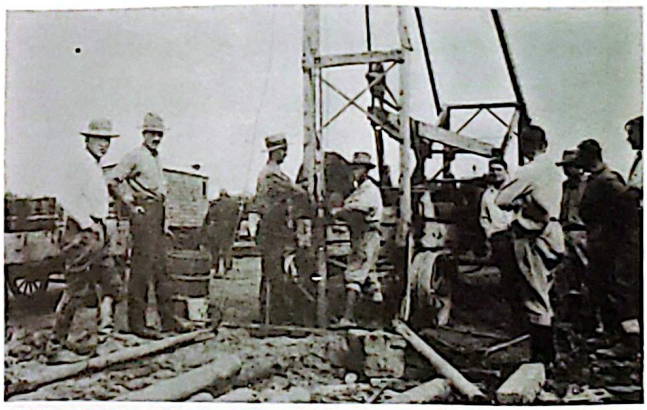
Once the hotel was built we gave up the restaurant.

There were vey few people in Two Hills at that time. Our neighbors were Mr. & Mrs. Steve Yuskow. Close by was the livery stable operated by Joe Rioux.

Adelard unloaded the steel for the Brosseau-Duvernay bridge. He also worked with Mr. W. Wilson and B. Potter drilling test holes for gas wells. He worked with Sam Douglas in the stockyards.

Our children, Florian and Florence received their education in Two Hills.

Adelard passed away in 1957. I reside in Edmonton.



Drilling test holes for the gas wells, Elphege on the pipes and Adelard on the right side.

Crew drilling gas well test holes. Adelard Desrosiers on left side of picture.

THE BEAUDETTE FAMILY OF BEAUVALLON

by Emilda (Beaudette) Desrosiers

Francois Beaudette, 1868-1937; Josephine, 1874-1957.

In 1902 we left Chartierville, Quebec, and moved to St. Antoine, Saskatchewan, where we lived for 10 years. During that time we went through a cyclone. We lost everything, machinery, stock, and even our clothes. We were fortunate as there was a house on another quarter of land we were renting. We moved into this and started over again.

Mr. & Mrs. Francois Beaudette, 1928.

The Beaudette home in Beauvallon, 1927.

In 1912, we left St. Antoine and moved to Beauvallon, Alberta. There we lived in a house belonging to Mr. Lefebvre, while Dad built us a small log house. Later, Dad and the boys built us a two-story log house which is still standing (my brother lives in it now).

There were twelve children in the family. One little girl died in infancy. The others were: Emilda Desrosiers, Frank (now deceased), Arthur, Rosilda Dupuis (deceased), Eugene (deceased), Malvina Beaudette, Exilla Garon, Homer, Louise Katzal, Jeannette Bourget, and Henry (deceased).

Dad did some breaking of land for many neighbors, at $1.50 an acre. This was done with two horses and a walking plow. When he started farming on his own this land-breaking was done with one horse and one steer and a walking plow.

In 1931, The Beaudette Family. L to R — Rosilda, Jeannette, Henry, Josephine (mother), Francois (father); Back row — Malvina, Exilla, Eugene, Emilda.

At threshing time, my brothers, Arthur and Frank helped. Arthur would cut the twine and push the sheaves into the machine. Frank was at the other end, moving the straw with a pitch-fork. They were each paid 12¢ an hour.

Our nearest town was Innisfree, Alberta. We took wheat there to have it ground into flour. We would purchase sugar, tea and other necessities. This trip took two days by horse and wagon.

Every Saturday night, all of us children would take our baths in a wash tub, so as to be nice and clean to go to church on Sunday morning. After Sunday Mass we were asked out to someone's house for dinner, or we had someone come to our place. These were always big family dinners. The children played until the adults had eaten. Then they were fed. They never suffered from hunger as there always seemed to be a lot of food. We also had dances and card parties in our homes.

We raised a few sheep. Mother spun her own wool, and knitted stockings, socks, mittens and scarves for all of us. She made slips and nightgowns from flour sacks. On these she would crochet yokes. She made her own soap with beef tallow or fat and lye. It was hard on the hands but cleaned very well.

The store was Frank Beaudette's and the pool room was Eugene's.

In 1923, Front row, L to R — Florence Desrosiers (Lister), Emilda Desrosiers, Florian Desrosiers, Jeannette Beaudette, Mrs. Josephine Beaudette, with son Henry, Rosilda Dupuis, Malvina Beaudette, Louise Beaduette; Back Row — Francois Beaudette, Homer Beaudette, Eugene Beaudette, Emile Dupuis, Frank Beaudette, Arthur Beaduette, and Exilla Beaudette.

My brother, Frank, started a store in Old Beauvallon and had to freight all his goods by horse and wagon from Innisfree. Later, when the railroad came through, he built a store in New Beauvallon, and another brother, Eugene, built a Barber Shop and Pool Hall. They did business there until they retired.

My children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren and I spend some time at this place every year and enjoy it. We all love it there!

Mr. and Mrs. George (Georgina) Desrosiers. Picture taken in Sorel, Quebec in 1881.

EUGENE DESROSIERS

by Robt. Bachelet

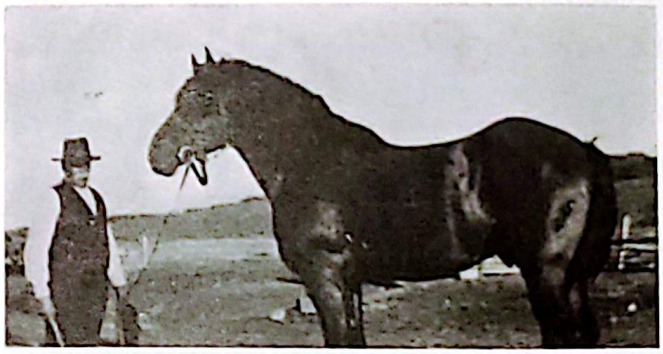
Eugene, son of George and Georgina Desrosiers, was born November 17, 1911 on Section 25-55-12 W4. He had 7 brothers and 3 sisters.

Gene attended school in Duvernay with Mr. Aucoin being one of his teachers.

He can also remember when his father used to go on horseback to Edmonton, a distance of 90 miles, to get groceries. On his way home, a 100 pound bag of sugar, plus other necessities, was tied on the horse's back with Joe walking all the way home. When he would get tired he would tie the horse to his leg and go to sleep. The reason was that, if anyone tried to steal something, the horse would pull, waking him up.

In 1931, the oilfields of Turner Valley appealed to him and he became involved in the trucking business, with Gainors White Transit Ltd.

In 1938 Gene left Turner Valley and worked for Shell Oil and Imperial Oil, in the Edmonton area, delivering gasoline to service stations. In 1947 he decided to go back trucking, purchasing an International 5-ton truck. In 1949 with business booming, he took his brother, Elphege (Alf) as a partner, forming the company "Gene and Alf's Transport, Ltd." They opened a

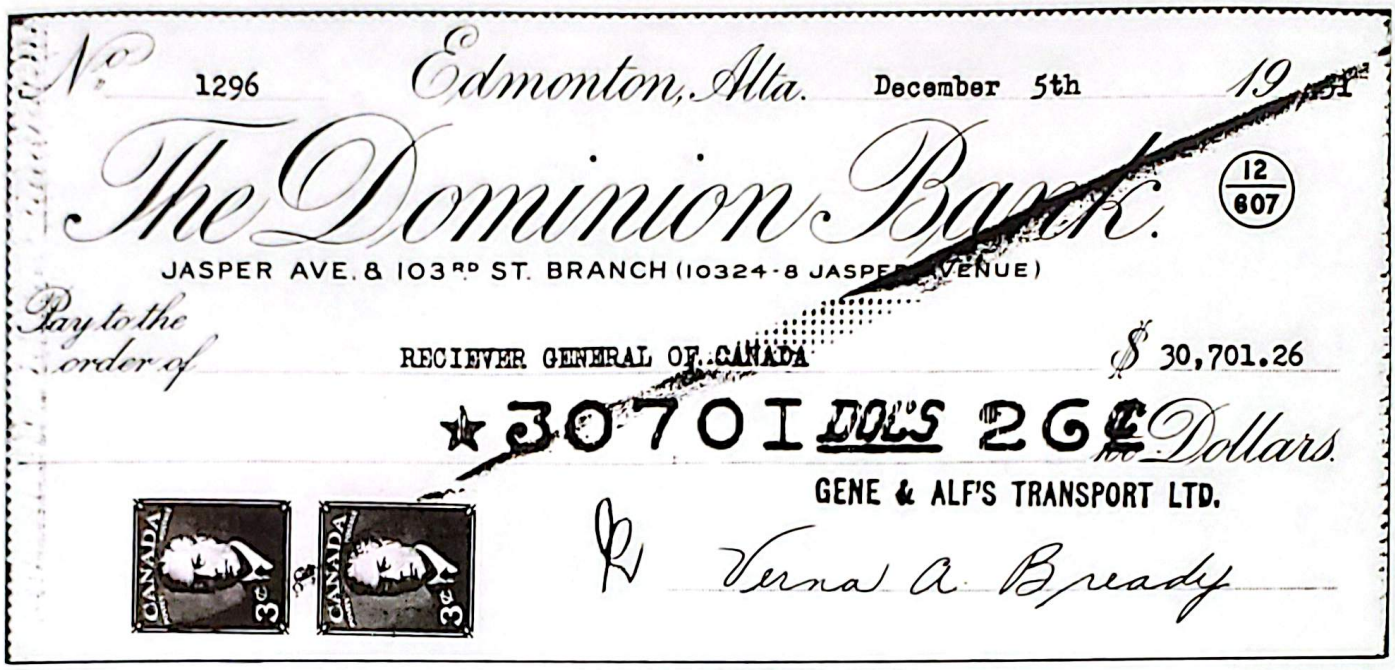


George Desrosiers, with Percheron stallion weighing 2200 lbs., at Duvernay in 1928 on Sec. 25-55-12-W4. Farmers would come from as far away as Vegreville to have their mares bred to this horse.

sub-office in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and at the peak of their successful career, had 101 trucks at their disposal, all owned by the company.

The drilling rig for Imperial #1, first producing well at Redwater when that field became another great oil find, was hauled by Gene & Alf's Transport.

In 1958, after many years and long hours in the trucking field and in the oil patch, Gene and Alf sold their business. The trucks were sold in B.C., Saskatchewan, Manitoba and some going to Montana, U.S.A.



No. 1296 Edmonton, Alta. December 5th 19 51

The Dominion Bank

12
607

JASPER AVE. & 103RD ST. BRANCH (10324-8 JASPER AVENUE)

Pay to the order of RECIEVER GENERAL OF CANADA $ 30,701.26

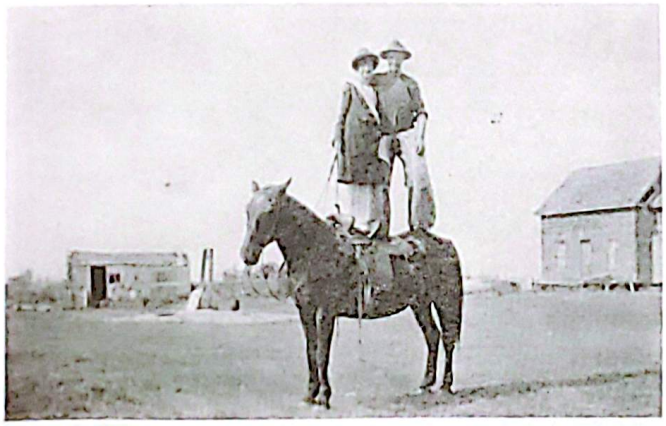
★30701 DOLS 26¢ Dollars.

GENE & ALF'S TRANSPORT LTD.

Verna A. Bready

CANADA 3¢ CANADA 3¢

This cheque represents the amount of income tax paid by Gene & Alf's Transport (Desrosiers) for the year 1950. Gene went out to his customers who owed him money, on a daily basis, cashing the cheques and putting the cash in a suitcase till he had $30,701.26. Then he drove to Calgary to pay off his debt, arriving there to be told they wouldn't accept the cash, because the money could have been stolen, but to go to his bank to get a certified cheque. So back to Edmonton with a suitcase full of money, and a very nervous Gene, to finally get his account straight with the Receiver General of Canada with this cheque.



Gene Desrosiers with girlfriend on his horse Ginger at Duvernay S-25-55-12-W4 in 1927. Gene was the cowboy of the family, and if a friend had a horse to break, Gene was always available.

Gene Desrosiers hauling a load of well pipe for gas well on Joe Brosseau's farm on the NE 36-56-11-4.

One of the 8 compressors for the Imperial Oil compressor station at Nisku hauled by Gene & Alf Transport a distance of 16 miles, off of railway cars, to Imperial Oil compressor station. There were 2 small bridges on this 16 mile route, both having been reinforced for this heavy load of 100,000 lbs. or 50 tons (the compressors only). This was done in winter, as roads could not handle these kinds of loads in the early fifties. Gene & Alf Transport were paid $800.00 per compressor. The truck is a 5-ton Diamond T White. Alf Desrosiers is third from left with his brother Gene the fourth. The officer was in charge of detouring all traffic as this load had orders to stay in the middle of the road, to avoid any mishap.

That same year Gene, always having been an avid horseman in his younger days, decided to ride in the Calgary Stampede. That was the last time he tried that, because, he says, you have to be crazy to try and ride a bronc at 47 years of age.

In the early sixties, Eugene moved to Calgary, again delivering fuel for Shell Oil until 1967.

In 1968, Gene formed Calgary Mobile Homes and sold Holiday Trailers, until 1977 when the city of Calgary expropriated his land for highway expansion.

This time Eugene retired, for good, in the Blackfoot Trailer Court on the Blackfoot Trail in Calgary.

Back Row (L. to R.) — Robert Desaulniers, Arge Gagne, Joe Pigeau, Joseph A. Brosseau, Raymond Desaulniers, Maurice Brosseau, Jules Journault, Armand Desaulniers. Middle Row — Annette (Mrs. Arge Gagne), Lucienne (Mrs. Joe Pigeau), Jeanne (Mrs. Joseph A. Brosseau) deceased, Mrs. Rita Desaulniers (Raymond's wife), Noella (Mrs. Maurice Brosseau), Fernande (Mrs. Jules Journault). Front Row — Helene, Mrs. Florence Desaulniers, Mrs. & Mr. Edward Guenette (grandparents), Mr. Rene Desaulniers.

RENE DESAULNIERS

by Noella Brosseau

Thomas Desaulniers married Alphonsine Caron in 1886. Their children were:

Beatrice who married Jim Lefebvre
Rene who married Florence Guenette
Flore who married Alderic Fouquette
Dulice who married Pierre Cote
Adrien who married Yvonne Guenette
Lucien who married Marie Louise Hamelin
Anthony who married Germaine Bussiers
Richard who married Elizabeth Leroux
Albert who married Yvonne Charron
Joesph who married Annie Goudreaux

Rene, the eldest son, was born April 24, 1889. He worked as a labourer for the town of Shawinigan, Quebec during the summer and as a lumberjack in the winter. In 1907, at the age of 18, a friend suggested that he borrow a horse from his father who had quite a few; the friend would buy one and together they could go into the woods and make a fortune. Rene was given one for the winter. When he returned in the spring he had $200.00, a lot of money in those days! His mother

Mr. & Mrs. Rene Desaulniers on December 26, 1975. She was formerly Mrs. (Eva) Napoleon Bergeron.

expected him to hand over his earnings for the upkeep of the home but Rene had other plans. He would buy a ticket for the West — to realize a dream.

Alphonsine was opposed to his departure for a place so far away and tried to discourage him. She even went to the parish priest who was also against him as he thought that Rene would soon forget his mother tongue and religion. Rene told his mother that this was not likely to happen. She told him, "Tu t'en va dans l'ouest pour manger de la vache enragee".

Despite his mother's disapproval, he left in 1907, but kept in touch with his family in Shawinigan. In her letters Alphonsine would continually ask when he was coming for a visit but the fare was $47.00 — a lot of money at that time.

In the fall of 1908, he went back to Quebec to work for the winter months as a lumberjack. He came back in the spring of 1909 with his brother, Lucien. They travelled as far as Vegreville by train. There they took the stage to Brosseau where they were met by Elie Lafreniere, who later was to become his uncle. From there they went to Lafond, where he filed for a homestead in Lac Bellevue — NE¼ 22-56-10 W4.

As he had no money left, he went to Spruce Grove, Alberta, where he rented land from Ed Guenette who, the following spring was to become his father-in-law. Land rental was $3.00 an acre; wheat sold for $2.00 and oats for .50¢ a bushel.

On April 6, 1914 Rene married Florence Guenette, daughter of Edward Guenette and Rose Beaudry. They farmed in Spruce Grove for four years. Lucienne and Jeanne were born there. The land was being sold so Rene and his family went back to Lafond to another homestead — SW¼ 28-56-10 W4. There they lived in a small shack where the rest of the family was born.

In 1912, Rene's parents, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Desaulniers, came west with the rest of the family, to homestead on a quarter section immediately across from the St. Bernard Church in Lafond.

Annette was born on September 19, 1921; Noella, December 13, 1922; Armand, March, 1923; Raymond, January, 1927; Fernande, 1929; Robert, 1931; Lorraine; and Helene.

As the boys grew older he purchased more land, and a tractor in 1948. When he retired in 1969 he owned eight quarters of land. It has all been sold now, except for an acreage at the home place which was reserved.

On October 17, 1972 Mrs. Florence Desaulniers passed away after a long illness. Rene remarried in December of 1975 to Mrs. Eva Bergeron. At the age of 91 he is still active, walking to town, from the Senior Citizen's Home where he is retired, three or four times a week — weather permitting.

Plus he can keep in touch with his old friends and neighbors.

He still enjoys working in the garden, especially the apple tree at the home and rhubarb.

Nine of the children are still living:

Annette married Arge Gagne
Noella married Maurice Brosseau
Armand married Margaret Mackworth
Raymond married Rita Foisy
Fernande married Jules Journault
Robert married Alma Foisy
Helene married Bill Marceniuk

There are 42 grandchildren and 24 great-grandchildren.

ADRIEN DESAULNIERS

by Juliana Desaulniers

Adrien Desaulniers, son of Thomas Desaulniers and Alphonsine Caron, was born in Shawinigan, P.Q. in 1893.

Mr. and Mrs. Adrien Desaulniers (nee Yvonne Guenette). 1914.

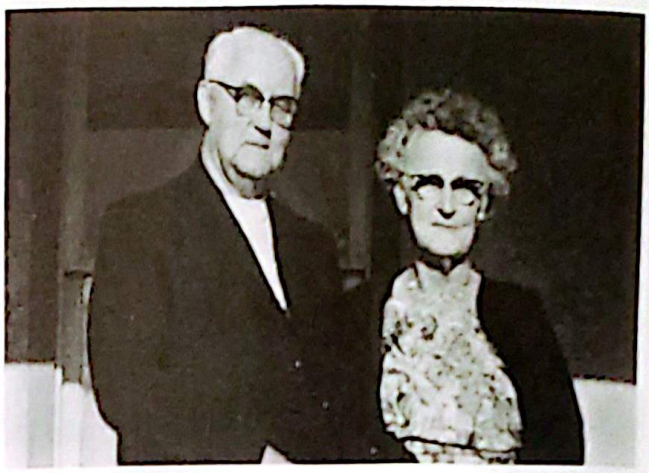
He came out west in 1911 to join his brothers, Rene and Lucien, who had already filed for homesteads in the Lafond area, in 1908. He filed for his homestead on Sec. 26-56-10 W4 close to the Lac Bellevue district but it belonged to the parish of Lafond. They all worked in Spruce Grove to make money to open up their homesteads. Adrien was married to Yvonne Guennette of Spruce Grove in a double wedding with his brother Rene to Florence Guennette on April 6, 1914. He settled on his farm and raised a family of eleven children.

Adrienne (1916-1969) married Philippe Lafrance, seven children; Maurice died in infancy; Wilfrid married Juliana Journault, ten children; Irene married Thomas Clark, seven children; Madeleine married Colonel Anderson, three children; Cecile (1929-1978) married Hubert Filiatrault, six children; Clarie married Charlie St. Jean, one son; Roland married Gail, four children, two died in infancy; Roger married Helen Hiller, five children; one died at 17; Hector married LaRae Anderson, four children; his twin - Victor married Mary Winerich, four children.

Adrien's wife predeceased him in 1934 when his oldest daughter was 18 years old and the twin boys were one and a half months.

In 1940 he married Mrs. Elphege Lafreniere (nee Leonilde Lapointe) a widow with three boys. Of this marriage were born four children: Yvonne married Wally Kracy, three daughters; Eugene married Doreen, two children; Therese; Louise married Ken Schulte, one adopted son.

Adrien passed away at 62 in 1953 and his wife Leonilde in 1969.



Mrs. Marie Louise Desaulniers and her brother, Father Josephat Hamelin, in St. Paul. 1959.

LUCIEN DESAULNIERS

by Gilberte Neveu

My father, Lucien, son of Thomas Desaulniers and Alphonsine Caron was born February 28, 1891, in Trois Rivieres (Three Rivers) Quebec. He came to Lafond, Alberta, in 1909, with his parents and family.

Mr. Lucien Desaulniers and granddaughter, Louise Neveu, 1950.

My mother, Marie Louise Hamelin, daughter of Xavier Hamelin and Celine Landry, was born March 8, 1891 in Buckingham, Quebec (near Ottawa). She finished Grade 12 in the parish school run by the Grey Nuns. Upon graduating, she worked in a store for seven years while living with her parents.

My grandmother Hamelin passed away in May, 1914. After her death, my grandfather and his daughter, Marie Louise, came West. My uncle, Reverend Josephat Hamelin, was parish priest at Lafond at that time. While visiting there she met Lucien Desaulniers, who lived across the road from the rectory. They were married November, 1915, and lived with my grandfather Desaulniers until a house was built on the homestead SE 28-56-10 W4. They moved into their home in 1917.

Grandfather Hamelin returned to Quebec in 1922 and died shortly after. Father Hamelin was transferred to St. Edouard, Alberta in 1918. In 1921, Mother went to visit him there. One evening my father was at a neighbor's when he noticed a fire at his place. He rushed home but could not save the house. It was completely

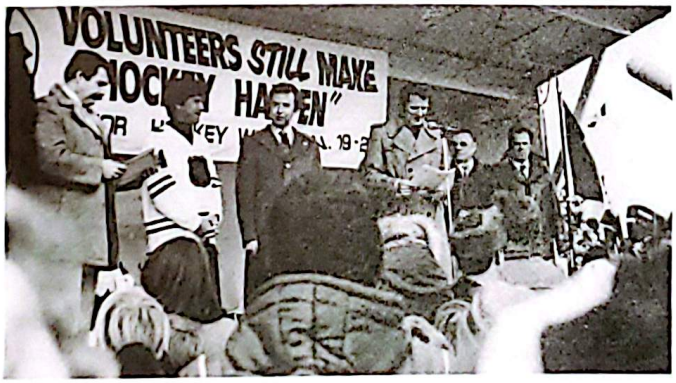
House on the homestead, being built in 1922 after the first house was destroyed by fire in 1921.

destroyed. Immediately, the neighbors helped to build a habitable shelter where the family lived as they finished it into a home in 1922. Later he bought S½ 27-56-11 W4.

There were eight children born to my mother and father. Twin girls died at birth. The rest of us attended school in Lafond, married and left home. Dad sold the farm to Camille Robinson in 1968, purchased a house in St. Paul, where he lived until his death on August 28, 1970. At his funeral the Requiem High Mass was celebrated by a nephew, Rev. Father Fouquette.

Back row L. to R. Laurette Lavoie, Gilberte Neveu, Solange Newby, Georgette Peterson. Seated, Gaston, Mrs. and Mr. Lucien Desaulniers and Simone Neveu at Golden Wedding Anniversary 1965.

Corporal Paul Neveu, grandson of Lucien Desaulniers, 1979.



Mr. Vic Hultquist, son-in-law of Raymond and Gilberte (Desaulniers) Neveu announcing Minor Hockey at Ottawa. On his right, Hon. Joe Clarke, a hockey player and his coach.

Shortly afterwards, in October, Mother sold the house. She is now a resident at Sunnyside Manor, St. Paul.

My sister, Simone, born July 18, 1918, married Henry Neveu, St. Paul, has 7 children; Albert living in Vancouver, B.C.; Lilianne married Albert Masse R.C.A.F., lives in Winnipeg, has three children; Dennis lives in Dawson Creek; Marcella married Robert (Bob) Robinson, great-grandson of Edmond Hector Brosseau, founder of Brosseau, Alberta, lives in Fort McMurray where he is an engineer with Syncrude. They have two sons, Wade and Brian; Roland, R.C.M.P., Calgary; Louis, Edmonton, pastry cook with Safeway; Claudette, Calgary. My 2nd sister Laurette, born May 17, 1922, married Alphonse Lavoie and lives in St. Paul. She has 5 children: Benoit, Lionel, Fernand, Diane (died), Suzanne.

Myself, Gilberte, born January 21, 1924, married Raymond Neveu of St. Paul and we have three children: Louise, Chairman of the Board of Farm Credit Corporation in Ottawa, and is married to Vic Hultquist, a sport announcer for the CBC in Ottawa; Paul is in the RCMP in Ottawa; Micheal is a carpenter in Edmonton.

Georgette was born May 7, 1926, married Bill Peterson, and has 4 children, Marjorie Hebert, Deborah, Kenneth and Bradley.

Solange, May 23, 1930, married Bob Newby, lives in Edmonton. Her family consists of Jocelyn, twins Darrel and Russel, Michelle, Roxanne.

Gaston, my only brother, was born February 8, 1932, married Lil Chrapko and lives in Edmonton. They have Linda Yurham, Lorraine and Leslie.

JOHN DUDAR

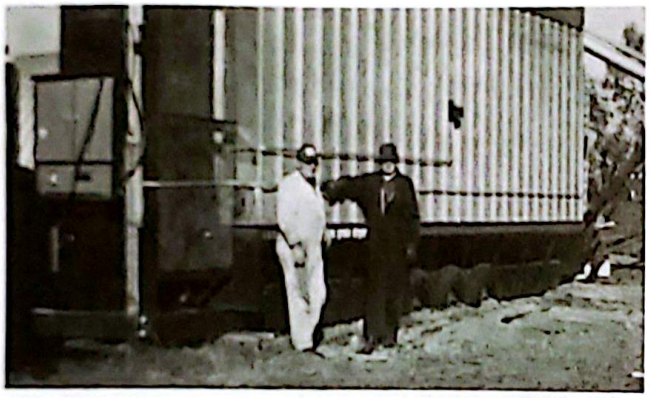
John was born February 16, 1917, the son of Dmytro & Mary Dudar at Myrnam. In 1923 John started school in Myrnam, completing his grade 8 in 1932. In 1933 John's father passed away suddenly, and John was left with the responsibility of looking after his brothers and sisters and also looking after the farm. It was no easy job for a young man of 16, but with perseverance and hard work, John accomplished this feat. John made it his job to be full time farmer when he met Margaret Bochon of Myrnam. John and Margaret were married on October 2, 1941 in Edmonton at the Seventh Day Adventist Church.

Margaret was the daughter of Bill and Anne Bochon the youngest of 10 children born on September 29, 1917 at Myrnam. She attended school at Round Lake from 1924 completing her grade 8 in 1932. After her schooling days Margaret went to work at the Myrnam hospital for 6½ years some as cook and last 2½ years as ward aid and at this time is when she met John and got married to begin a lifetime of farming, on N.E. 28-53-9-W4th, Myrnam, Alberta.

The winter of 1942-43 saw John take his truck and go north on the Alaska highway to help supplement his farm income. His wife Margaret looked after the farm which allowed John to leave for the winter. In the spring of 1943 after a winter of hauling canned food, hinds of beef, repairs for caterpillars, and lots of freight which was classed as a military secret, John was on his way home in the spring of 1943. Roads at that time were of a very low standard, and it was a long journey home, for a fleet of approximately 15 trucks back home after a winter on the Alaska highway.

Approximately 1½ miles west of Slave Lake, Alberta the road was impassable as army trucks with there 4 and 6 wheel drives had torn the road up and made it 1 great quagmire in the swamp. The only alternative at this point was to get on the railway track for approximately 3 miles

Terra-Gator Chemical Applicator owned by J. Dudar and Son Enterprises. It has 4 ft. wide tires and has very little compaction damage to crops and is the only one in the County of Two Hills at this time.



Continuous flow grain dryer on the Dudar and Son farm in Myrnam. John Dudar on left with his son Ken on right. A dryer is a must with the vast amount of acres to be harvested. Combining starts before the crop is dry.

Fleet of 6 combines owned by Dudar & Son Enterprises of Myrnam with service truck in the foreground.

where there was a crossing where they could get off and get back on #2 highway. John at this time had the front of a broken down truck which belonged to one of the boys on the back of his and while crossing the railway bridge, the truck slipped off the ties and had the whole operation stopped. At this time knowing that a freight train was due in an hour or so, one of the boys walked to Slave Lake to notify the train crew. The engineer parked his freight train on a siding in Slave Lake and proceeded with the conductor to the point where these trucks were stuck on the railway track. After arriving there, the conductor knowing there was a passenger train due also in an hour, from the opposite direction walked 2 miles down the track placing a bunch of torpedoes to warn the passenger train before it got to these trucks. During this time, the engine pulled these trucks up to this crossing and after this job was completed, with 15 trucks cleared off the track, the engineer and conductor went back to Slave Lake, but this was not the end for these 15 trucks. To get from this crossing back on #2 highway was a creek. Not far from this point was a mink rancher and upon approaching him bought a bunch of timbers from him and proceeded to build a bridge so they could get on to #2 highway. So working well on into the night, their bridge completed 15 tired truckers got into their vehicles and kept on their way to various parts of the province, along with John heading for Myrnam.

John has always been community minded, when in 1951 started organizing and selling shares for the Myrnam Seed Cleaning plant. In 1953 saw this become a reality and John has held the position of chairman of this board for a consecutive 27 years. John is also on the Myrnam Hospital board serving also in the capacity of chairman. John served on the Vegreville Auxillary Hospital board and Nursing home in Two Hills also in capacity as chairman for 6 years. In 1955 with lot of pressure from his neighbors, John let his name stand for councillor in a field of 3 people in Division 2 of the County of Two Hills, after, coming out victorious in the election. In 1957, John was elected reeve of the County of Two Hills #21, a position he still holds today, and during this time was also chairman for the school committee for 6 years. John's theory in life has always been "Do it right or don't do it at all", which has proved itself in the County of Two Hills. The Municipal Inspectors reports for the county which are issued twice yearly have always been good and of a positive nature. The position of reeve is not an easy one, as the load is heavy at times but working with good fellow councillors makes the task a lot easier. Also an efficient office staff which John has been very fortunate to have in his life time as reeve makes his job a lot easier.

During John and Margaret's life time, they were blessed with 2 children; Ken born on January 2, 1947 at the Mrynam Hospital. Ken took grades 1-9 in Myrnam finishing his grade 12 in the Seventh Day Adventist College at Lacombe.

On June 30, 1968 Ken married Corinne Karst, the daughter of Felix & Lydia Karst of Quill, Lake, Saskatchewan. They have three sons; Dustin, Chad, and Ryon. They live next to his dad's at Myrnam.

January 22, 1955, saw their daughter, Darlene born in the Myrnam hospital. Darlene took her grade 1-10 in Myrnam then to the Seventh Day Adventist College in Lacombe to finish her grade 12. She also took 4 years of nursing acquiring a Bachelor of Science Degree at Walla Walla, Washington, U.S.A. On December 21, 1975, Darlene married Fred Bisgard of Casper, Wyoming U.S.A. in

the Beauvallon Seventh Day Adventist Church. Fred is the son of George and Eleanor Bisgaurd of Casper, Wyoming. They have 1 son, Nevin. At this time, John & Margaret, along with Ken & Corinne, are farming a vast amount of land employing between 6 and 10 men in the peak periods. They have tried aerial seeding but has not proved feasable, so are now using an air seeder which is an oversized cultivator with seed being forced down tubes behind the shanks by means of air pressure. At one time the Dudar's ran a large feed lot but went out of that due to shortage of help during the summer months and also to be able to take life a little easier during the winter months. John and Ken have purchased a Terragator Chemical Distributor, the only one at this time in the County of Two Hills. They are in the production of grain only and also doing some trucking.

ALPHONSE DUPERRON

by Suzanne Coutu

Alphonse Duperron, son of Simeon Duperron and Marie Cyr from Plamondon came to Brosseau in 1968. Alphonse married Marie Rose Lemay daughter of Robert Lemay and Bertha Schaub of Plamondon. They purchased the store from Leo Marceau and also the post office for 9 years. Alphonse drove the bus to St. Paul for our children in high school for one year and worked for Cockshutt Implements in St. Paul. In 1969, he bought his own school bus and drove for Two Hills county for 5 years. He decided he would go gravel hauling and in 1974 he purchased a gravel truck. It wasn't too long after that he sold his store to Berny Ghasler in 1977 and he bought a mobile home and rented some land to set the home with gravel hauling as his work. His wife Marie Rose works at the Co-op store.

They have four children:

Jules married Mavis Stetsko and reside in Edmonton.

Janelle married Terry Stefuik and reside in Two Hills.

Harold works in Edmonton.

Ramona is still in School.

Ramona, Harold and Jules behind Marie Rose, Alphonse and Janelle Duperron (1979).

THE OLD STONE HOUSE

by George English

Samuel Rose English was born near Drayton, Ontario, August 28, 1855, of Irish parents, who had come from near Dublin, Ireland, in 1846, during the Irish Potato Famine. He homesteaded in Harding, Manitoba, in 1880 and farmed there for 22 years.

Samuel English, 1918.

Anne Jane Speers was born in Owen Sound, Ontario, September 26, 1873 and became a school teacher. She was teaching in Owen Sound when Billy Bishop's older brother began school. Billy Bishop, World War I ace who was credited with shooting down 72 enemy aircraft, was only five when she left to visit her older brother W. George Speers in Griswold Manitoba, where she met Samuel. They were married March 6, 1899.

In 1902 Samuel and Anne came to Strathcona, Alberta, and rented the Duggin farm. In 1903 he filed on his homestead on SW¼ 24-54-13-W4th, about 3½ miles south west of the present site of the town of Two Hills, where he built a small frame house. In the spring of 1904 Anne came to join him with their two children,

Aunt Maggie and Samuel with George and Baby Dean, 1918.

The stone house built by Mr. Samuel English in 1914.

Garnet and Eleanor. Most of his neighbors were of Ukrainian descent and could not speak much English. Samuel never learned their language but got along very well with them.

Mrs. English went teaching in the Lanuke school in 1909 and remained there until 1934.

In 1914 the first house on the homestead was replaced by a large stone house. Charlie Gordon of Vegreville was the contractor and B. Jewel of Hairy Hill, the stone-mason. From the footings up, it was completely constructed of stones collected in the neighborhood. The other farmers were only too happy to let Samuel take them away. It was a 2-storey building with a kitchen, a dining-room, a living-room, a den with a fireplace, five bedrooms and a bathroom upstairs and a full basement with a dumb-waiter connecting it to the kitchen area. There were two flights of stairs — a front one and a back one. They had running water and plumbing — 1914 variety. A stove in the kitchen, a heater in the basement and in the living-room heated the house. They used coal and wood. This house was easily kept warm, but, if you ever let the fires die down the house cooled off and it would take a long time to warm the stones again.

This house still stands, a testimonial to the ingenuity of a homesteader from Ontario. It has been unoccupied since 1957.

Samuel had married twice, and had two daughters by his first wife:

Stella — 1884-1871 — married C.W. Speers, died in Edmonton and was buried in B.C.

The English family 1949. George, Tom, Edith Ahlstrom, Mrs. Anne English, Eleanor Baldwin, Garnet and Dean.

Viola — 1888-1942 — married C.A. Ashlstrom, died near Two Hills and buried in Vegreville.

Samuel and Anne English had six children:

Garnet — 1899-1970 — buried in Vegreville

Eleanor — 1901-1980 — died in Mount Vernon, Washington, U.S.A.

Tom — 1907-1971 — married Margaret Isibster who lives in Two Hills.

Edith — 1908 — married Edwin Ahlstrom, residing in Sherwood Park, Alberta.

George — 1915 — married Alberta Dow, lives on the farm near Two Hills.

F. Dean — 1917 — married Isabel Reesor, lives in Lacombe, Alberta.

Three sons Garnet, George and Dean served overseas during the 1939-1945 war. Tom, the remaining son, was physically unfit for the services.

Samuel English died September 14, 1924 and Mrs. Anne English April 1957. Both are interred in Vegreville.

GEORGE ENGLISH

by George English

George English, son of Samuel English and Anne Speers was born in the stone house on Samuel's homestead, on June 10, 1915. He attended school in Lanuke from 1922-1927 with his mother as the teacher. He stayed home for two years and returned to finish high school in Two Hills where, Mr. Jack Laughlin, was his only teacher.

George went farming until 1939 when he enlisted in the Canadian army, first with the 19th Alberta Dragoons, in Calgary, and then, the Edmonton Regiment. He went overseas in December 1939 and stayed in England until 1943 when he went to the Mediterranean Front seeing action at the landing in Sicily, July 10, 1943 and landing in Italy on September 1, 1943. He went up the "boot" as far as Ortona where he was wounded December 24,

George English and Alberta Dow on their wedding day August 1, 1950.

1943. He was hospitalized until February 1944 when he returned to his regiment in Ortona and stayed with it until January 13, 1945. He came home on "rotation leave" but stayed in Canada. He was sent on a campaign for a Victory Loan drive through Rosetown, Saskatchewan and was there on VE Day — May 8, 1945. He returned home and was discharged July 22, 1945.

Then, George resumed his life on the farm, on a half section he acquired through VLA, adjacent to his pre-war farms.

On August 1, 1950 George married Alberta Dow in Vegreville, Alberta. She is a well-known personality in the Two Hills area. She trained as a nurse in the Archer Public hospital now known as the Archer Memorial Hospital. Following her graduation she nursed in Athabasca, Hanna, Powell River, B.C. and Lamont. Then she became the matron in the Two Hills Hospital in 1950. After her marriage to George she relieved in both the Two Hills Hospital and the Eagleview Nursing Home, but did not do regular nursing.

In 1963 George built a new, modern home on NE¼ 24-54-13-W4th where he and Alberta still reside.

George retired in 1976. He enjoys meeting his old war buddies as well as his many new friends, regaling them with all kinds of little anecdotes and jokes. whether he dreams them up, invents them or hears them from others is a mystery! Only he and Alberta know!

Such sympathetic, admirable and esteemed friends are not, like autumn leaves, found everywhere! God bless them!

JOHN EWASIUK

My early life began in Shepenitz, Bukovinia, West Ukraine. Our family was a total of seven; mother, father, three sisters, and one brother who came to Canada before me. Father's farm was about three acres where we kept one cow, a few pigs and some chickens. We had a big garden and some fruit trees. He worked for the landlords too. I remember that for every twelve bundles of grain one went for Dad and eleven for the landlord.

During that time money was hard to come by which meant many things were sacrificed in order to continue our means of survival. Although we were not rich, we were a close and happy family dreaming of the riches that grew on these beautiful trees in Canada. I was not one to dream too much, but wanted to prosper on some of that wealth that existed there. I was eighteen years old and had had a chance to go to school up to grade eight, then decided to come to Canada. My father, who had no money, went to see the landlord and got one hundred and fifty dollars to help me with my fare.

In the spring of 1913 I decided to make the journey to Canada. Father gave me the money and I was on my way. I packed the few belongings I had in my suitcase, bought the boat ticket which cost one hundred and thirty dollars and I was left with twenty dollars to spend in this strange and unknown world across the ocean, only eighteen years old and the thought of going was scary but I just had to prosper on some of that wealth. The bottom floor of the boat was loaded with cattle and the top deck was for people. It took us three weeks to come to Fort William. There I had an uncle, Dan Ewasiuk, who took me in; work was not available at all. There were all kinds of people looking for work. It ended I stayed with my uncle and helped him a bit, paying for room and board till spring.

Came spring of 1914 I started to look for work and got a job with the railroad in Ontario. The pay was 10 cents an hour ten hours a day which gave us one dollar. They charged us sixty cents a day for board and left us with forty cents profit. Then came winter and no more work so I went back to my uncle's place and paid my board and by the spring of 1915 I left to look for work. Now I thought I would go further west and hopped on a box car up to Edson. Work was supposed to be had at the mine thirty-five miles from Edson. My hopes were high so we got on the train up to the mine but waited only a couple of days as people were lined up for jobs. The train came but once a week so there was no other choice than to start walking, this time with a partner back to Edson.

We arrived there very hungry with nothing. Money or no money my partner said we have to eat. We entered the restaurant and sat down. The waiter asked for our order and we had our meal. The chap I was with said nothing but was doing a lot of thinking. When the waiter went back to the kitchen for another order, my partner said, "Let's get out of here." We got away but it wasn't long before the police had me. I was brought to the barracks and told I could get three months for a thing like that. I was told to

follow him and into the car I went. My first thoughts were jail but he took me a ways out of town, stopped the car and told me to start walking and not to come back. I told him I had no money to eat. He put his hand in his pocket and gave me a dollar. One thing I learned, the police were not that bad if we are honest.

One dollar in my pocket and a full stomach, I rode the freight to Vegreville where I knew I had an uncle, Onufry Ewasiuk. I asked him if I could work for him for board and room. He had five men already but said I could stay for the same deal, board and room. I stayed all winter and we cleared a quarter of land which he had just purchased. Next morning off to work we went, the six of us, a rope, and each an axe, also a shovel. It was good size timber, so one would shovel snow around the tree to the roots so he could cut the roots, then a man went up the tree to tie a rope so they could pull the tree down while another cut roots all around. By spring the land was ready for the breaking plow. Our pay was a good meal, bed, mitts and pants, but I was happy to spend the winter there. In the spring of 1918 I had to look for work again. I had a brother that had come to Canada before me who by now had afforded to buy a quarter of land in Kaleland and was married. I arrived there and both were down with the flu. That was the year many lost loved ones. I went to help neighbors, too, with their chores until one day I was down with it too. I worked with my brother and stooked and picked stones for farmers at 15 cents a day when I had no work at my brother's. It was not long before I was able to rent land from Mr. A. Skakun on half share, and here I stayed for three years. I had a few pigs and cattle and wheat was $1.75 a bushel then so it all helped.

Mr. and Mrs. Ewasiuk's first grain field on their newly acquired farm in 1924.

John and Rachelle Ewasiuk going to town in 1923.

Mr. and Mrs. Arechuk parents of Rachelle Arechuk (1923).

Came 1923 I decided I would sell my grain and with what I had saved I bought one quarter of land east of Duvernay. I married Rachelle Arechuk on April 29, 1923 in Boriwchi Greek Orthodox Church in Willingdon and we moved on the farm. This land I bought from Metro Chrapko for a price of $2,500.00. There was a house and barn so it was a start. I was a trustee for schools and the church and also helped the priest in church.

Then came the hard times when everything was so cheap. 1930, 1931 wheat was 25 cents a bushel, barley 15 cents and oats 5 cents. In those years you kept steers up to three years old. We sold five steers that weighed between 1300 to 1400 pounds and got $15.00 each. Hogs were $2.50 and cows were $8.00 each. We did odd jobs available in exchange for work on the farm. I remember helping plaster the River View Hotel in Duvernay with Mr. A. Skakun to get work done on the farm in return.

As the years went by times got better and we farmed till 1961, then sold and moved to Two Hills. In 1973 we celebrated our 50 years of marriage. The children, friends and neighbors gathered in the community hall in Hairy Hill to share those joys with us. My wife was the daughter of William Arechuk of Kaleland.

The year of 1975 was an opportunity to go back to see my country after 61 years. It was a more exciting trip to go on compared to when I left home to come to Canada. It did not take too long to know where I was raised as we got close to our little farm. The well was still at the same place, the apple trees my father had showed me how to graft were still living. I couldn't help but to go and hug that tree even though it was old and crooked, apples were still being picked. I celebrated my 80th birthday with my three sisters and relatives in my homeland.

Mr. and Mrs. John Ewasiuk celebrating their 50th year of married life in 1973.

The five Ewasiuk girls in 1973.

We had a family of five girls.
Mary married Dave Hohol
Olga married Ray Jones
Rose married Richard Dutka
Lena married Richard Chapman
Sonia married Joe Galichowski

We have 16 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

GEORGE EMES

by Mrs. Pearl Coutu

Mr. & Mrs. George A. Emes moved to Brosseau, Alberta, in 1917. George Emes was born April 17, 1876 in Beaverton, Ontario and came out west in 1902, settling in Bruce, Alberta. He met and married Anastasia (called Nellie) Palzat in Edmonton in 1906. Mrs. Emes born April 23, 1884, had immigrated to Canada from Austria in 1900, at which time her family settled in St.

Mrs. George Emes Sr. and Grandson on the farm 1941.

Mr. George A. Emes & Mr. Joseph Brosseau
Enjoying a drink of creek water.

Michael, Alberta. Mr. & Mrs. Emes honeymooned on a raft on the North Saskatchewan River. They travelled from Edmonton to North Battleford, Saskatchewan. It was quite an experience. In later years Mrs. Emes would remind "Old George" as he was commonly known, when he would let a string of oaths go, that she remembered the time he earnestly prayed — when they hit the rapids on the mighty Saskatchewan River.

One season Mr. & Mrs. Emes worked with the Natrees Carnival from Seattle, Washington, east to Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Mr. Emes loved the excitement but, Mrs. Emes was happy to leave the music, gay lights and excitement to settle on their homestead in Ashmont, Alberta. Their three oldest boys John, George and Mike were born there. In 1917 they bought a farm bordering the Saskatchewan River in Brosseau, Alberta, NE¼ 17-55-12 W4. Their son, Arthur was born there. They also bought a farm owned by Mr. Chrapko, SE¼ 32-55-12 W4, below Mamaestie School. This is where Pearl was born. They sold this place later.

In 1920 Mr. Emes bought the Richelieu Hotel in Brosseau from Mr. Frank Ploof. Then, in 1923, the property next door from Mr. Leonard Girard. In 1926 Hazel was born there. The hotel was demolished in 1929.

During the first World War, Mr. Emes enlisted in the Army along with three of his brothers. He was unable to go overseas so recruited and trained troops in Canada. During the 2nd World War George Jr. served in the Navy and Mike in the Army.

"Old George" was a great story teller and many hours were spent, by old and young alike, listening to him while he made an old story come to life. He was active in Politics. He enjoyed Baseball and would travel miles to support the ball team of his choice.

Mrs. Emes was a quiet, retiring person but was always there when needed to administer to the ill, help a needy family or just lend a listening ear to the troubled. The Emes home was always open with a warm welcome to friends or weary travellers. They willingly shared what they had.

During the depression years Old George and his sons would fish the Northern lakes. The boys filed on homesteads around Pinehurst Lake in 1930 and 1931.

Mr. and Mrs. Emes reitred in their little house in Brosseau.

Mr. George Emes Sr. died June 2, 1958, and Mrs. Nellie Emes passed away April 20, 1960. Both are buried in the Two Hills Cemetery.

John Emes was born April 19, 1908, married Mary Kirby from Goose Lake, Alberta, retired in Prince Rupert, B.C., has six sons: George, Frank, Wesley, Gordon, David, Gerald.

George born July 16, 1910, married Mary Ellen Kinsella from Newfoundland, retired in Prince Rupert, B.C., has six children: Irvine, Marline, Connie,Veleta, Carol and Raymond.

Mike Emes born March 11, 1914, married Mabel Kirby from Goose Lake, Alberta, lives in Prince Rupert, B.C., has four children: Arthur, Arnold, Gloria and Michael.

(L. to R.) Mr. George A. Emes, Mrs. Emes, Mrs. Mary Emes, Mr. John Emes, Mr. Joseph Brosseau and Mr. Mike Emes.
Blueberry Pickers.

Arthur born Mary 24, 1917, married Lillian Bergman of Owlseye, Alberta, lives in Faust, Alberta. They raised six children: Melvin, Leslie, Hugh, Kenneth, Jim and Lily.

Pearl born July 19, 1920, married Roger Coutu of Brosseau, Alberta, lives in Vancouver, has three children: Roger, Betty Anne and Janice.

Hazel born July 19, 1926, married William Smith of Brosseau, Alberta, still lives in Brosseau, Alberta, has seven children: Jim, Brian, Wayne, Kenneth, Dale, Sharon and Mavis.

In May 1931, George was dared to swim across the Saskatchewan River. Once the word was out people from St. Paul, Vegreville and points in between came to watch and place their bets. Needless to say, once he accomplished the feat there was much celebrating in the neighborhood pub.

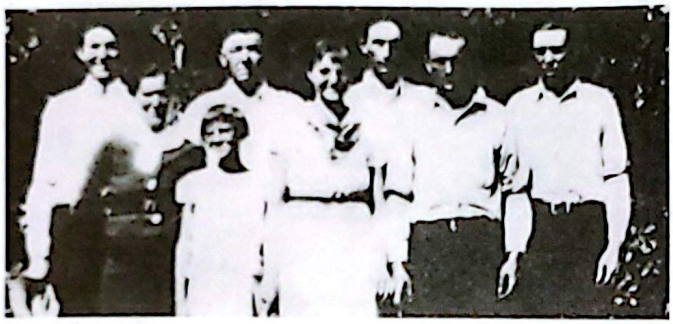
He was well-known for pulling pranks. With the help of Mr. Joe Brosseau, he hid in the trunk of Joe's car while they went through the gates of the Saddle Lake Treaty grounds. Mr. Brosseau paid his admission but before he drove away told the ticket collector to look in the trunk. Lo and Behold! there was old George supposedly trying to get out of paying.

Mr. & Mrs. Emes ran a booth at Saddle Lake during treaty days for several years and both ran in the foot races. In later years they joined the tent-town campers, camping with their family and enjoying meeting friends and acquaintences who always made this an annual event. "Old George" could be heard cheering his favorite ball team all around the grounds.

ARTHUR MELVIN EMES

by Hazel Smith

Arthur was born May 24th, 1918 on the family farm at Brosseau. He went to school in Edmonton and the Duclos in Bonnyville. At the age of 18, he decided to leave the homestead at Pinehurst lake. He returned to Brosseau where he started farming on less than a shoestring. Though he often found the going rough, he never became discouraged and thus managed somehow. He obtained his mechanic papers in 1941.



Emes Family: Back row — Arthur, George Sr., George Jr., John; Front row — Mrs. Nellie Emes, Hazel, Pearly, Michael, 1938.

In 1942, he married Lillian Bergman, the youngest daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Eric Bergman of Owlseye, Alberta. In 1946, they moved to Glendon, Alberta, where they went into the Garage business. Arthur also hauled livestock to Edmonton. During this time, he studied to become an auctioneer and received his license in 1947. They remained here until 1958 when they returned to farming. In 1960, they rented out the farm and moved to Faust, Alberta, where they took up mink farming.

They are still in Faust. Lillian works for the Faust Mercantile and Arthur is manager of the Senior Citizens complex. In his spare time he fishes and does auctioneering. They have six children.

Melvin: born Aug. 1st, 1942 in St. Paul, Alberta. He went to school in Glendon, Two Hills, Kinuso and then furthered his Education in Ponoko to become a psychiatric nurse. He obtained his Auctioneer's license in the spring of 1980. He married Sharon Peterson of Faust, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Mel Peterson. They have 3 sons: Kevin, Kurtis, & Tregg.

Leslie: was born Aug. 26th, 1943 — attended school in Glendon, Two Hills and Kinuso. He married Karen Hall of Widewater, Alta., daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Jim Hall. They have 3 sons: Dean, Corey & Scott.

Lily: born Jan. 29th, 1944 in St. Paul — educated in Glendon, Two Hills and Kinuso. She married Ronald Gramiak of Slave Lake. They have two children: Darrel and Gail.

Hugh: born April 29th, 1946 (St. Paul) — went to school in Glendon, Two Hills and Kinuso. He married Jo Anne Sigurdson of Widewater: daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Joe Sigurdson. They have 2 children Anne and Allan.

Kenneth: born Nov. 16th, 1950 (St. Paul) — his schooling was in Glendon, Two Hills, Faust and Kinuso. He then went to NAIT and obtained his Journeymen's certificate in Electricity. He married Maureen McGough of Swift Current Sask. They have 3 children; Bradley, Holly and Darcy. Muareen is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Jim McGough.

Jim was born in Glendon. He went to school in Faust, Kinuso and Camrose. He obtained his electrical Journeyman certificate at NAIT. He married Audrey Jones of Consort, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Sid Jones. They have one daughter, Serena.

CHARLES MICHAEL EMES

by Michael Emes

Charles Michael Emes, third son of George and Nellie Emes was born on March, 11, 1913 in Edmonton — 8711 - 111 Avenue where Clarke Stadium is today.

In 1930 Mike, at the age of 17, was cook helper for the bridge gang who were building the bridge over the river between Brosseau and Duvernay. In 1931 he was 2nd cook.

Tommy Carlson and Mike Emes fishing at Pinehurst Lake in 1944.

25th anniversary of Mike and Mabel Emes, 1963.

On December 22, 1937 he married Mabel Kirby in Franchere, Alberta. They lived at Pinehurst where their four children were born. They moved to Brosseau in 1952. Mike worked for Western Chemicals Ltd. until 1958 when he went to Edmonton. In 1965 he went to Prince Rupert and returned to fishing which he had done in the years spent at Pinehurst.

Mike Emes with a Halibut weighting 389 pounds, caught with a fishing rod.

Michael Emes, youngest son of Mike and Mabel Emes with his children, Terry and Shannon.

Their oldest son, Arthur married Ruth Caroline Jones of Vegreville, August 5, 1962. They have two sons, Darrell Arthur and Trent Randall.

Their second son married Sheila jean Boyer of Blind River, Ontario, January 20, 1968. They have two girls, Mavis Louise and Sharline-Anne.

Mike's boat in Prince Rupert, B.C.

Mike and Mabel Emes celebrate their 40th anniversary, December 1978.

Their only daughter, Gloria Ethel married Patrick Arthur Bell of Athabaska, Alberta, December 9, 1962. They have 3 children, Sherri-Rae, Sharole and Horley Patrick.

The youngest son, Michael Gerald Emes married Rita Gladys Engiver of Tabor, Alberta. Their sons are Shannon and Terry.

Mike's record of service, 1942-1945.

After trying to join the services three times I was finally called up in 1942 and accepted in the Royal

Ruth and Arthur Emes and sons, Trent and Darrell.

Arnold and Sheila Emes and their children Mavis and Charlene.

Canadian Engineers in Chilliwack, B.C. where I passed my NCO training. There I excelled in Sports winning the Pacific Command Championship in the over-all 7 mile cross country contest.

I also was awarded Honorable mention for giving dry parties for the younger soldiers. I was happy to be back home in 1945.

Pat Bell, Bill Smith, Hazel Smith, Gloria Bell, Sherri Bell.
In front — Sharole and Harley Bell.

At first negotiations: Rupert Fast and Michael Emes. OCAW Union.

JOHN EMES

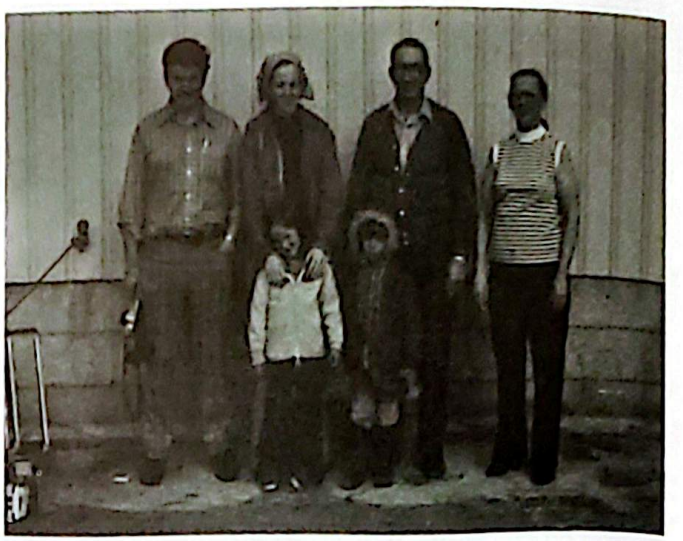
by Hazel Smith

John, son of George and Nellie, was born in Edmonton on April 19, 1908. He was with the family on the homestead in Ashmont, on the farm in Brosseau and in the Richelieu Hotel in the hamelt of Brosseau in 1920.

During the depression years with his brothers he filed on a homestead near Pinehurst Lake where he began his career as a commercial fisherman. In 1934 he married Mary Kirby from Goose Lake, Alberta.

Since then he has fished most of the lakes in Northern Alberta. In 1963 he went to Prince Rupert

George Emes Jr. and family. Top row L. to R. Carol Irvin, Marlene Calder, Raymond, Veleta Dudward, Nellie and George, Connie Dudward. 1979.



L. to R. Willie Valpy and Carol Valpy (nee Emes), George Emes Jr. and Nellie Emes from Prince Rupert, B.C. Children are Georgina Valpy and Rodney Marcichiw, taken in Two Hills in 1973.

where he went deep-sea fishing, having his own boat which he called "Lucky Lady 2". Mary went to work in the hospital.

John and Mary have 6 sons: George, Frank, Wesley, Gordon, David and Gerald. They lived in Pinehurst, Brosseau and Edmonton before moving to Prince Rupert.

Although of retirement age, John still goes fishing in Alberta every year.

John and Mary have, now, 19 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren to enjoy.

GEORGE WILLIAM EMES

by Hazel Smith

George William Emes was born July 16, 1910 while his parents were living in Ashmont District, Alberta. They moved to Brosseau in 1917 where they farmed, ranched. In winters they fished and trapped in the Pinehurst Lake area. He attended the St. Laurent School of Brosseau (except for 3 or 4 months at Mamaestie in 1920) until 1925-1926 when he went to Queen Alex School in Edmonton.

George married Mary Hnatiuk in October 1940 and was separated October, 1940. In 1942 he joined the Royal Canadian Navy as a cook and was discharged in 1945, when the war ended. He married Mary Ellen Kinsella of Newfoundland. At first they lived at Pinehurst Lake, and went fishing.

In 1953 he worked for a construction of the Western Chemical Ltd. plant in Duvernay and in operation until 1958. They moved to Faust, Alberta until 1963 when they went to Prince Rupert to go deep-sea fishing with their own boat.

George and Mary Ellen (Nellie) raised six children and have 14 grandchildren, all residing in the Prince Rupert area:

Irvin, born in Vegreville, September 20, 1946, attended school in Brosseau and Two Hills, married Judy Hidber of Prince Rupert and has two children, George and Francince.

Marlene, born in Bonnyville on May 29, 1948, attended school in Brosseau and Two Hills, married Harvy Calder of Prince Rupert, has 3 children, Velma, Tracy and Gordon.

Veleta, born in Bonnyville, August 6, 1949, attended school in Two Hills, married Randy Dudward of Prince Rupert, has 4 children, Raymond, Marty, Randy and Tammy.

Connie, twin sister of Veleta, born August 6, 1949, in Bonnyville, attended school in Two Hills, married Gordon Dudward of Prince Rupert, is deceased, has one child Velinda.

Carol, born December, 1950, married Willie Valpy, has two children.

Raymond, born July, 1953 in Two Hills, attended school in Prince Rupert, married Gwindlyn Skog of Prince Rupert, has two children, Dolly Rae and Amanda.

My career as a Cook.

I enlisted in the Canadian Navy in Edmonton in 1942. I took my basic training in Toronto, Ontario, and went to cooking school in Esquimalt, which is part of Victoria, B.C.

I cooked in a hospital in Halifax for a few weeks. There I got my draft order to report immediately to HMCS Sunbeam, an oil tanker used for fueling other ships. I just had time to get to my room, pack my bag and go aboard still smelling of hospital.

I'll never forget meeting Captain Hanover for the first time. Before the war he had been a sea captain, a fisherman and a rum-runner. He took a long look at me and greeted me with these words:

"I suppose you are a baker or pastry cook!" (I later learned he had just got rid of a pastry cook.)

"Hell, no," I said. "I am a fisherman and a farmer".

"That sounds good," came the reply, to my surprise. "Come aboard. I'm getting so tired of these

fancy cooks they are sending. Ship's company is 30. Get grubbed up. We are sailing to St. John's, Nfld. for about a week or ten days."

Within hours we were on our way. We stopped in Sidney, N.S. overnight. By this time I was finding out what war was all about. We were travelling through sub-infested waters, with no guns or depth-charges, only the captain's hand gun. Still, the trip was beautiful.

The Sunbeam was stationed for the duration in St. John's. Captain Hanover took over the HMCS Moonbeam and went to Montreal for refit. We all hated to see him go. I stayed with the crew. We were lucky that his replacement was the same sort; rum-runner and fisherman from Nova Scotia.

I was not long getting acquainted in St. John's as I had a lot of time on my hands, every night off after supper was served. I rented a room in a private home, with some very nice people, where I could entertain friends after work.

Just before the invasion I was put in charge of the cooking staff of HMCS Bommingville with a complement of 135 men, on English rations. It had just been commissioned out of Belfast with the latest equipment. This new Corvette was assigned to the north end of the triangle run, from St. John's, Nfld. to Londonderry, Ireland, and back to Halifax. I soon got tired of this and requested shore leave. I was transferred to a cafeteria on Water Street in St. John's where I spent the last six months of the war, when I was discharged.

Thus ended my cooking career.

ERNEST WALTER EMES

by Hazel Smith

Ernest Emes was born June 29, 1890 in Beaverton, Ontario. When he came west he first worked in the Bruce area but eventually made his way north settling in St. Paul where he married Alphonsine Deschamps. They had two daughters, Annie Rebecca and Mary Elizabeth (Bessie). Mrs. Emes died giving birth to her second child. The girls were raised by their grandmother until they were old enough to go to school. Then they stayed in the convent. Bessie and Annie would spend some time with their Uncle George and Aunt Nellie in the Richelieu Hotel in Brosseau, during their holidays.

During these years, Ernie, as he was called, broke and trained horses for Mr. Joe Brosseau and worked for other farmers in the Brosseau area.

He introduced the Waltz-Quadrille to the people of this district. He would sing the words while the people danced; no one knew how to play it at first.

Annie married Dan Daniels of St. Paul. They had six children: Lorna, Angela, Gordon, Percy, Terry and Berkely. She now lives in Edmonton.

Bessie married Louis Berard of St. Paul. They have five children: Annette Doris, Lillian Kathleen, Janet Vivien, Joseph John Louis and Maureen Claudette. Louis and Bessie are retired in Edmonton.

Ernie's second marriage was to Amelia Massey of St. Paul. They had six children: Rose, Ernest, Alfred, Margaret, Evelyn and Gertrude.

Ernest Emes passed away on December 31, 1960.

Ernie Emes.

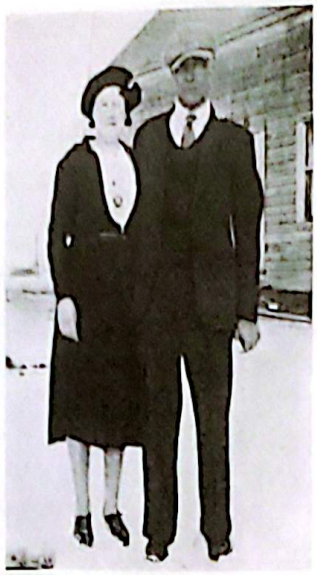
ANDREW E. ELKOW

by Helen Elkow

Andrew Elkow was born on August 16, 1890 in Bukovina. In 1905 he came to Canada with his parents and settled on NE-11-55-12-W4 then later homesteaded on SE-12-55-12-W4 in the year of 1910.

Grandpa and Grandma Elkow with Aunty Pankow in 1921 (Note straw thatched roof).

Marilyn Elkow age 10,
Terry Elkow age 6 (1956).



Andrew and
Helen Elkow (1935).

Like all others he had to look for work and worked for the railroad. One of the places he worked at was Crowsnest Pass.

In 1930, Andrew married Helen Eliuk on June 8th at the St. Trinity Church in Ispas with Rev. A. Chrustawka performing the ceremony. They lived with his parents, William Elkow then purchased NE-14-55-12-W4 from Mr. Belland. Their first son was Edward (Bill) born on December 1, 1931 in Vegreville hospital. Second son, Joseph was born on January 5, 1935 with Mrs. Mandrusiak as the mid-wife assisting. First daughter, Victoria born on July 8th, 1937 in Vegreville hospital now Mrs. Vern Rancier. Another daughter Marilyn born on June 20, 1946 at the Vegreville hospital now Mrs. Myron Chilibeck. Third son Terry born on January 12, 1950 at the Two Hills hospital.

Mr. Elkow farmed till 1957 always with horses, but as time went on he was not feeling too well, so his son Edward farmed it till he passed away on November 30, 1964 at the age of 74 years old. He was buried in the Greek Orthodox cemetery which is situated on the NE-2-55-12-W4.

Ed Elkow age 9, Joe Elkow age 5, Vickie Elkow age 3 (1940).

EDWARD (BILL) ELKOW

by Helen Elkow

Edward (Bill) son of Andrew and Helen Elkow of Duvernay NE¼ 14-55-12-W4th was born December 1, 1931 in the Vegreville Hospital. He attended Nizir School from September, 1937, until June, 1946 having as teachers: Bill Kost, Anne Slevinsky, Olga Odynski.

Back row: Edward Elkow, Andrew, Helen Elkow, Joe Elkow. Middle row: Victoria Rancier, Terry Elkow, Mary Lin Chilibeck. Grandchildren Kenneth, Chris, Terry Elkows.

After finishing school Bill worked for Nick Orlecki until 1951 when he worked for the Department of Highways, checking gravel from Long Lake to Medicine Hat. In May 1954 he worked for Western Chemicals at Duvernay filling railway tank cars (at $1.05 per hour) and 3000 pound cyclinders with chlorine. In 1957 he apprenticed pipefitting, obtaining his ticket in 1962. Wages then were $2.27 per hour.

On July 26, 1958 Bill married Helen Skowronski in the Musidora Greek Orthodox Church with Rev. S. Hredel officiating. Helen is the daughter of Alex and

Helen and Ed Elkow (1968).

Fedora Skowronski of Lafond, Alberta. She was born March 6, 1939 at home with midwife Mrs. Robinson assisting. She attended Chesterville School from September 1946 until 1955 and had Mr. Smith, Miss Sinclair and Miss Mary Petruk as teachers. From 1955 until her marriage Helen helped her folks on the farm.

Bill and Helen moved to Duvernay, renting a house from Bill Boychuk acquiring their own home from Bill Haley in 1960 for the sum of $4500.00. Their three sons were born in the Two Hills Hospital: Kenneth William, February 20, 1959; Christopher Allan, May 8, 1962; Glen James, October 15, 1963.

Bill, at this time, was also farming evenings and weekends on SE¼ 12-55-12-W4th with a Farmall M. Diesel I.H.C. In 1964 he went to work for the St. Paul Auction Mart, driving their truck, and he was also their scale man. The truck was a 1963 I.H.C. 3-ton with a 24' box and, to Bill, it was a jinx because he could never make a trip to Edmonton without having a breakdown. In May 1965 he purchased his own truck from Jack Zarowny for $7600.00 and took over hauling all the hogs from Two Hills for Nick Orlecki.

On June 24, 1965 Bill, being away trucking, Helen (expecting her supposed-to-be daughter) drove her three sons to a baby-sitter, then drove to the hospital in Two Hills where her fourth son was born at 10:00 P.M. Myles Andrew.

On March 1967 Bill had his first accident. In a blinding snow storm, as he was coming home, he hit a stalled car, 3 miles south of Duvernay, on Highway 36. Fortunately no one was hurt.

On May 1967 Bill and Helen's backyard was a beehive of activities, when the Centennial canoe pageant stopped right next to their property, and the late Hon. John G. Diefenbaker was at their place.

Bill was also an ardent curler, always joining the Farmers' Bonspiel in Two Hills. One year, Bill was curling with Dr. M.E. Chonko, Peter Orlecki & Bob Bachelet. On their way home, at 3:00 A.M. stopped at Dr. Chonko's house for a drink. Dr. Chonko, being the sport that he was, welcomed them in, put a bottle of Canadian Club on the table, explained that he had an operation next day, told them to put out the lights when they left, and retired for the rest of the night. That's what Farmers' Bonspiels were all about!

Back row: Glen, Miles and Cris. Front row: Kenneth, Helen and granddaughter Jennifer.

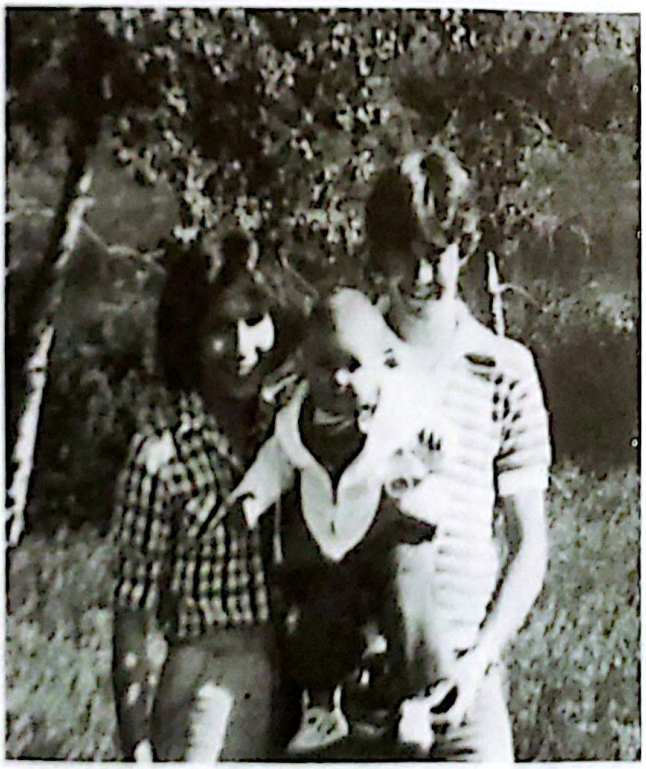
Four generations. Standing, Kenneth Elkow. Seated, Edward, Helen May (Elkow) and Jennifer Elkow.

In November, 1967, Bill traded his truck for a larger one — 1968 Ford 700 series with a 20' box. Business kept improving so Bill purchased another unit — 1967 Chev 3-ton from Ray Lafreniere and hired John Mikalsky to drive it, as, by this time, he had the contract to haul the Lafond hogs to market.

Bill and Helen rented the Brosseau store from Gaston Bachelet, in Sept. 1, 1971 and operated it for 2 years.

In June 1972 Bill had too much work for 2 body trucks so Bill purchased a single axle 1967 Ford 850 tractor and 45' trailer which, in 1974 he traded for a 1974 C65 Chev from Marshall Motors of Peace River; and in 1973 he bought an International diesel 4000 series tandem cab-over. During this time he had Nick Oriecki as a second driver, also occasionally Bob Bachelet. That Chev gave him nothing but trouble (3 motors in one year) so, in 1976 he traded it off for a Ford 750 — 1975 model. Again, in 1977 he purchased a 1975 4200 series International tandem diesel and started hauling gas for Gulf Oil.

Helen, her family growing up, went driving a school bus in 1974, for the County of Two Hills #21 and is still doing so.



Kenneth and Laurie Elkow and daughter Jennifer, 1978.

On May 7, 1977 Bill and Helen married their first son to Laurie Cherniwchan, and are now the proud grandparents of a grand-daughter, Jennifer.

Business is still increasing. In 1978 Bill purchased another truck 4070 1976 International tandem diesel. Now, in 1980, Bill and Helen are still operating Ed. Elkow General Trucking, hoping that one day one of the boys will take over, and they can go on their long over-due honeymoon.

JOHN T. ELIUK AND FAMILY OF HAIRY HILL

by Edmond Smith

John T. Eliuk was born in the Western Ukraine in 1893. He crossed the Atlantic in 1912 when he was eighteen.

In 1922 Mr. Eliuk bought a quarter section at Hairy Hill, where he now has 100 acres under cultivation.

Mr. Eliuk's reputation of "Small Farmer and Big Exhibitor" is an accurate one. The livestock on his holdings consists of 2 horses, 5 cows, 6 sheep and 2 brood sows. He bought his first tractor in 1950, so that the agricultural picture is not one of extensive farming usually associated with western Canada; but one of more thorough methods of cultivation and appreciation of the value of land.

When people were "crying down" the country during the "lean" thirties, John switched from the 10¢ per bushel oats to registered seed. His first registered seed oats cost 60¢ a bushel (express $2.00) and his first effort at the Regional Fair in 1936-37 won him the grand prize of $7.00. But he kept right on exhibiting, and won consistently higher awards, to achieve a record equalled only by a very few others.

Mrs. Eliuk has had a hand in all the exhibits, while the children have also taken a part. Metro is at present teaching at Beaver Dam, while Tillie graduated from the Vermilion School of Agriculture in 1950. Tillie has a record of her own in Junior Provincial shows. She has won eight firsts, two seconds, five thirds and a score of other awards which have brought her trophies and gifts, including a gold wrist watch.

Mr. Eliuk is not resting on his laurels — but busy preparing more entires for exhibitions which help to raise the standard of Canadian grain. Not less than this high quality of the grain he produces is the esteem with which this Alberta farmer is held by his many friends, both near and far.

This write-up donated by Edmond Smith's son-in-law.

Metro and Tillie Eliuk, shown with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. John T. Eliuk, of Hairy Hill.

MICHEAL EGLINSKI

by George Eglinski

Micheal was a homesteader in the north eastern part of the Duvernay district in 1910. Like others moved around looking for a better place in the Chesterville area, but stayed there only a short time of the year and moved back north of Two Hills on the NW ½ section-5 Twp 56 - range -12 - W4.

Besides farming he started building his first home as he was very handy with a broad axe and did a lot of building of homes for others with his neighbor Mr. Nick Herhrychuk, then farming on SE ½ - 4 Twp - 56 range - 11 - W4.

In the year of 1915 or 1916 Micheal married the daughter of Peter Meryniuk who farmed the NE ½ - 24 Twp - 55 range - 13. Parasina Meryniuk came to Canada in 1902.

It wasn't long after their marriage that Micheal Eglinski started a store in the Szypenitz area on the SW ¼ corner of 26 Twp - 55 range - W4. They were fortunate to have a hall, church and a school, at the time Mr. Laughlin was the teacher.

Micheal had seven sisters and one brother of which only one brother and two sisters came to Canada. One sister did come to Canada but went to Saskatoon,

Mr. Eglinski with his son Harry who was killed in action in 1942. Mr. Eglinski was town police for 22 years.

Back: Alec Eluik, Bill Kormish, Bill Eglinski, Dan Daley, John Eglinski, Vic Eglinski. Second row: Martha Kormish, Olga Eglinski, Mary Daley. Front: Metro Eglinski, Jenny Lily Eglinski, Pearl Micheal Eglinski, Kris Eglinski, Olga Eglinski and Mary Eglinski.

knowing that Micheal was in Canada somewhere. In 1935 they were fortunate to meet. They knew of another brother Eli, but were never able to find him. The family found only after he died and that he was living in Toronto at the time of his death. One sister Annie Luciak by her first marriage, now Annie Reznik who resides in Two Hills.

Micheal was a very good supporter for community projects, which took place in the Szypentiz area. Besides having the store he also had one of the first truck transports in the district.

Micheal in the year of 1927 purchased land north-east of Two Hills W ½ section - 11 - 55 - 12 - W4. The railway C.P.R. was built and Two Hills was starting. He decided to close his store in Szypentiz and started farming and also employed at Two Hills Hotel as he had a share in it.

Micheal recalls when Albert Barnes, living in Duvernay in the year 1910. He was the last gun packing sheriff he remembers as he recalls on a few occasions he acted as his deputy and interpreter.

Micheal started the first dairy farm in Two Hills, delivering milk from door to door. He also was town police and helped to keep law and order during World War II for twenty years.

Selling his dairy farm in 1947 he moved to Edmonton and started a corner store and they operated this till his passing away in 1950.

Micheal and Parasena had a family of twelve children, seven sons and five daughters. John of Edmonton, Bill of Chipman both served in World War II. George of Mundare served in World War II overseas. Vic and Metro are both living in Edmonton. Peter died as a child. Mary Daly of Wetaskiwin married Dan Daly. Jean Eliuk of Edmonton, Alec her husband deceased. Martha Kormysh of Edmonton married Bill. Lilly of Edmonton married Mr. La Londe.

Olga (Mrs. George Eglinski) plowing on her dad's farm in 1946.

Olga and George Eglinski's wedding picture, 1948.

GEORGE M. EGLINSKI

George M. Eglinski was born on May 2, 1923, the son of Micheal & Pearl Eglinski of Shepenitz. He was born right at home and the midwife was Mrs. Zelez. He started school in 1930 in Two Hills located at that time just west of the present Two Hills Inn. Mrs. McCutcheon, Mr. McLaughlin, Miss Powel were some of George's teacher and also to Nizir school with Miss Mary Soldan, Miss Anne Keryluk and Mr. Shandro finishing grade 10 in 1938. That fall George went threshing in the Ispas country for George Werstiuk, and Nick Kuzio in the Two Hills area for a total of 52 days at 20¢ per hour. The winter of 1938-39, George worked for George Werstiuk for $3.00 per month. The spring of 1939 saw George hop a freight to St. Mary's, Ontario along with his cousin George A. Dams. He worked on a gravel crusher, plumbing outfit, power company climbing poles, building an amunition factory at Welland, Ontario for Piggot Construction, and in the fall of 1941 he joined the armed forces, and went overseas with the Queens Own Rifles, landing at Liverpool, England. He was stationed at Aldershot, England, then to Dieppe, then back to Aldershot, then transferred to #10 Canadian Training Centre (CTC). In 1943 he volunteered for the special forces in U.S. Canada Forces. While he was in Italy, he met Laurent Coutu from Brosseau and Mike Kreusick of Two Hills in Avalino, Italy. After being accepted for the U.S. Canada Forces, George went to Fort Benning, U.S.A. training for the paratroops, and unarmed combat, and tough physical training. While George was there, he volunteered for Devil's Brigade as an instructor in physical training and unarmed combat, and also went into action with them. After being wounded in the legs and hospitalized upon discharge George went to New Westminster Regiment. Georges army career brought him to many countries, including Africa, Sicily, France, Holland and Germany. He got wounded a second time in Holland and seen D Day in that country. He demobilized in 1946 with the N.W.R. arriving in Canada in Halifax and discharged in the horse palace in Toronto.

He came back to the Two Hills area working at odd jobs renting his dad's land on N.W. 11-55-12-W4th till he got married to Olga Eskiw of Two Hills. George and Olga were married on June 19, 1948, in the Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church in Vegreville with Rev. Chrystawka officiating. The reception was at John Eskiw's farm at Two Hills. It was a real old fashion Ukrainian wedding. It lasted 3 days and dancing on an open air platform. All the food was cooked in a piche (an old fashion dutch oven). Olga was the daughter of John and Sophie Eskiw of Two Hills. Olga was born at home on July 2, 1931. In 1938 Olga attended Frankiw school which was 3 miles south of present day Musidora, completing her grade 4 in 1951. Her parents moved to Two Hills on S.W. 34-54-12-W4th then went to Nizir school till June 1947 finishing her grade 8. That next year Olga worked for her parents and marrying George in July of 1948. George & Olga stayed at John Eskiw's place till fall then they moved to Edmonton for the winter and George worked on construction. In April of 1949, they moved on V.L.A. Veterans Land Act land, S.W. 11-55-12-W4th moving Micheal A. Ponech's law office from Two Hills for Olga's first house on the farm.

On July 3, 1950 saw their first daughter, Patricia Olivia born in Two Hills Municipal Hospital with Dr. Winnitoy in attendence. Pat is now married to Keith Purves from Newcastle, England, but are now residing in Fort Saskatchewan and working for Native Counselling Services of Alberta. They have 3 sons, George, Graham, & Jimmy.

On May 1, 1953, their first son Gary Obrien was born in Two Hills Municipal Hospital with Dr. Winnitoy in attendence. Gary married Cindy Woychuk of Acadia Valley. They now have 2 children, Corinne & Curtis, and are living in Fort Saskatchewan working for Sherrit Gordon.

On December 31, 1959, their second daughter, Valarie was born at the Two Hills Municipal Hospital with Dr. Derbawka in attendence. Valarie is now married to Morris Grekul from Two Hills and they have 1 boy Justin. Morris is employed by Dow Chemical and living in Fort Saskatchewan.

Their last daughter Denise was born on November 17, 1965 in the Two Hills Municipal Hospital with Dr. M.E. Chonko in attendance.

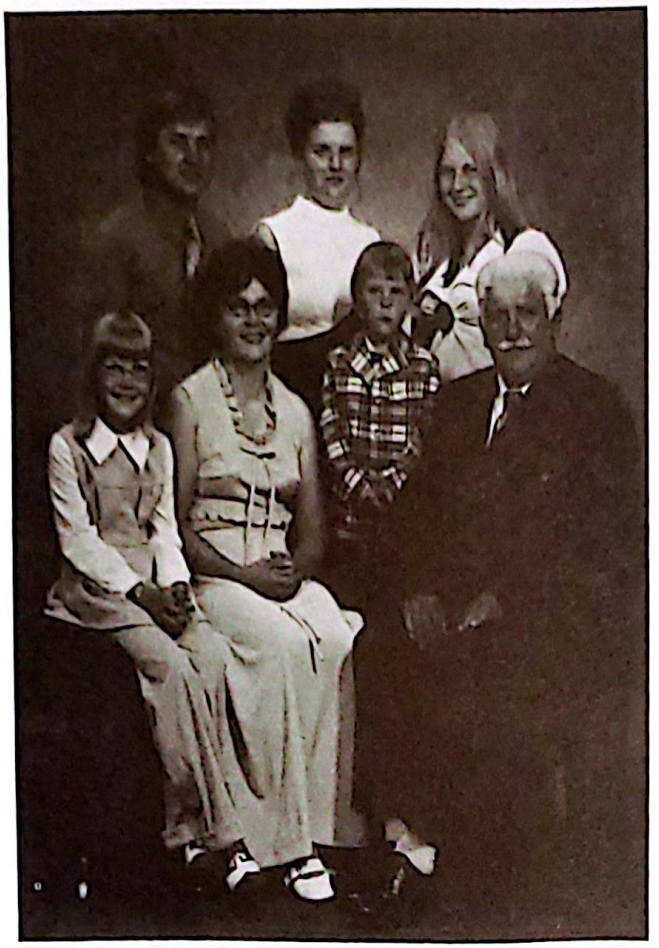
A second son, Clayton was born on December 29, 1967 (a centennial baby) at the Two Hills Municipal Hospital with Dr. Chonko in Attendence.

In 1970, Olga started taking foster children and are now on their fifteenth foster child. George had various jobs to supplement his farm income, to name a few, worked for the County of Two Hills #21 when Bill F. Elkow was councillor, Pawliuk and Sons putting the first water works in town of Two Hills, roughnecking for Commonwealth Drilling Ltd., also for C.H. Witham Contractors Ltd. while building Western Chemicals plant in Duvernay, in 1953 started for Western Minerals as a battery operator, servicing all there gas wells in the area, and now started a war surplus store on the farm. George also took up auctioneering as a side line. George and Olga farmed all these years raising purebred hereford cattle, yorkshire hogs, renting lots of land, raising wheat oats & barley. George has always been active in the community affairs, president of Morecambe R.E.A., director for the Brosseau Mutual Telephones Co. Ltd., Two Hills Elks Lodge, Two Hills Lions, Two Hills Legion, organizer of the National Farmer's Union when they marched on the provincial legislative buildings protesting low farm prices.

In September of 1967, George and Olga went as delegates to Toronto for the leadership convention when Robert Stanfield defeated John Diefenbaker. Also Bob & Lorrainne Bachelet, Laurent Coutu, Norman and Florence Mailloux were delegates from the Vegreville constituency.

1968. Captain George Eglinski first commanding officer of the Two Hills Air Cadets 782 Squadron with Henry Kowalechuk, a Cadet supporter.

George was the main organizer for the Two Hills Air Cadets 782 Squadron, being the first Commanding Officer. George was always politically inclined running twice for county councillor, but being defeated by a narrow margin. On May 7, 1968 George was a candidate for the Progressive Conservative federal nomination, in a field of 6 candidates having the biggest turnout in the smallest town, Two Hills, attracting 3000 delegates forcing it into 3 ballots, finishing at 5 a.m. the morning of May 8 being defeated by Don Mazankowski. That same election George ran as an independent Progressive Conservative candidate. In 1969 George was a candidate for the provincial Progressive Conservative provincial nomination in Vegreville in a field of 4, when John Batiuk was the victorious one. In 1974, Spike sold his Ranch, his machinery business and war surplus, and moved to Mundare area along Highway 16, on S.E. 18-54-16-W4th. In 1975 went into Real Estate, for Canada Permanent Trust, till 1977 when George went to work for Silver Sands Realty and Development Ltd. He also became a shareholder in the



Back row: Gary, Pat, Valerie. Front: Denise, Olga, Clayton and George Eglinski June 19, 1973 on their 25th Anniversary.

company he is presently employed by, and is still in the shortline machinery business and dealing in war surplus equipment.

In 1977 George went back to Germany, Holland, and England to reminisce some of the old times of the war days. George and Olga are still farming and are looking forward to retirement when all the children are grown up.

RICHARD C. FIFE

by daughter Mrs. Birdie Brown

In 1898 Richard C. (Dick) Fife came to Edmonton from Peterborough, Ontario. A year later he established his ranch along the old Battleford Trail in the Vermilion River valley, and brought his supplies by scow from Edmonton down the Saskatchewan River to the point now known as Duvernay. He was one of the earliest settlers in the district and for some time his nearest neighbor was Tom Watt, who had settled a distance of ten miles farther west. Part of the present town of Two Hills is located on Mr. Fife's original homestead.

Before the C.N. Railroad came through Vegreville in 1905 the nearest markets for cattle were Edmonton and Wetaskiwin, and the early settlers had to drive their herds overland to one or other of these points for sale. As the number of settlers increased Dick helped organize the first school in the area and was trustee for over twenty years.

In 1914 Dick Fife and Elizabeth Ferguson were married. Elizabeth had come from Ireland to Winnipeg, and later came to the district of Two Hills to care for her ailing sister, Mrs. Bleakly and her family, and the two younger Ferguson brothers, Sandy and Andy.

For many years the Fifes kept large herds of cattle and horses, and a great quantity of hay was cut and stacked on their splendid meadow along the Vermilion River. At this time the nearest market was Vegreville, a distance of 28 miles, and the cattle were herded there for sale in the fall. Grain was hauled to the elevators by sleigh and team during the winter. The frozen Vermilion River was used as a major part of the road for the two-day round trip. The arrival of the C.P. Railway through Two Hills in 1927 greatly eased the marketing problems.

Dick was well known for his veterinary knowledge and gave considerable assistance to his neighbors in this field. The Fife home was a favourite gathering place for settlers, teachers and friends, and here on weekends Mrs. Fife served meals for the many visitors who came to the farm. Mr. Fife enjoyed immensely the lively conversations of the visitors. The Fifes were among the founding group of the first United Church in the town of Two Hills and donated land for the site.

Taken at Dick Fife's in 1922. Old-timers L to R: Bill Flyn, Sandy Ferguson, Tom Watt, unknown boy working for the Fife's, Dick Fife, Jack Forbes, Mrs. Forbes, Mrs. McPherson, Henry Watt. Seated: Mae McPherson and Mrs. Fife.

Mr. and Mrs. Fife were outstanding pioneers, ready to face all the problems of settlement in an area far from the railroad, where early settlers had to contend with routine and sometimes unusual situations. However, they were able to adapt and to cope with the pioneer life along the Vermilion River. It might be of interest to note that Dick's great-uncle, David Fife, of the Peterborough area, in 1842 had introduced Canada's first early, hard spring wheat resistant to rust. It was called Red Fife and its cereal substance continues today in the varieties which have been developed from the original strain.

After 50 years of ranching and farming the Fifes sold out in the spring of 1949 and moved to Edmonton. Mr. Fife died in 1951 and Mrs. Fife passed away in 1971. They had one daughter, Birdie, now living in Edmonton, and one son, John, at present in Denver, Colorado.

MR. EDMOND FOISY — MARIE LOUISE CHARBONNEAU

by Prosper Foisy

Mr. Edmond Foisy was born Iles des Allumettes, Quebec, in 1866. He married Marie Louise Charbonneau of Quebec in 1895. That same year they moved to Leroy, North Dakota, U.S.A. and stayed there for five years. In 1900 they journeyed to Lamoureux, Alberta, Canada. Some five years later he left for better hunting grounds, and squatted in the Foisy area. He had five children, an ox, a horse, a plow and $17.00. At this point he was 60 miles from the nearest railway which was in Vegreville. A trail was their only road.

Mr. Edmond Foisy married to Marie Louis Charbonneau, 1895.

Upon his arrival in Foisy, he cut logs and built himself a log cabin with a roof made of sod. His 303 rifle and double-barrel shot-gun (12 gauge) served to hunt wild life which was important to his survival. The oxen plowed the land that Edmond had cleared with his axe. He had a steel plow and would exchange it with other settlers for a cultivator, because he did not have all the equipment necessary for cultivation.

As the years went by Edmond Foisy would freight his pelts, grain to Vegreville. He would buy or exchange for some twine, yarn, cotton flannelette by the yard. One trip would take one week with horses. He freighted whiskey to St. Paul. At times the freighters would break a case open but made sure the whiskey bottles remained sealed. How to get a drink? They would break the bottle from the bottom and blame it on the rugged trail. The whiskey was strained through a rag just to make sure there was no broken glass. ONE WAY TO GET A FREE DRINK ON THE INSURANCE COMPANY!

Once a year they would attend the Roman Catholic church in Brosseau for their Easter duties. Mr. Foisy helped in the construction of the Foisy, Big Fish Lake School where his nine children received their rural education from grades one to eight.

In 1930 we should note that wheat was sold for 20¢ a bushel. Eggs sold for 3¢ a dozen delivered at the home. Goods were exchanged amongst neighbors e.g. wild meat for beef, pork or chicken. Eggs traded at the store for tea or coffee. There wasn't much money then.

Mr. Edmond Foisy was fortunate to have no tragedies in his family. None of his sons had to go to war. The most unpleasant moment was when Mrs. Foisy would make this paste out of sulphur powder and everybody had to take a full teaspoon of this home remedy-supposedly good for all parts of the body — SPRING TUNE-UP!

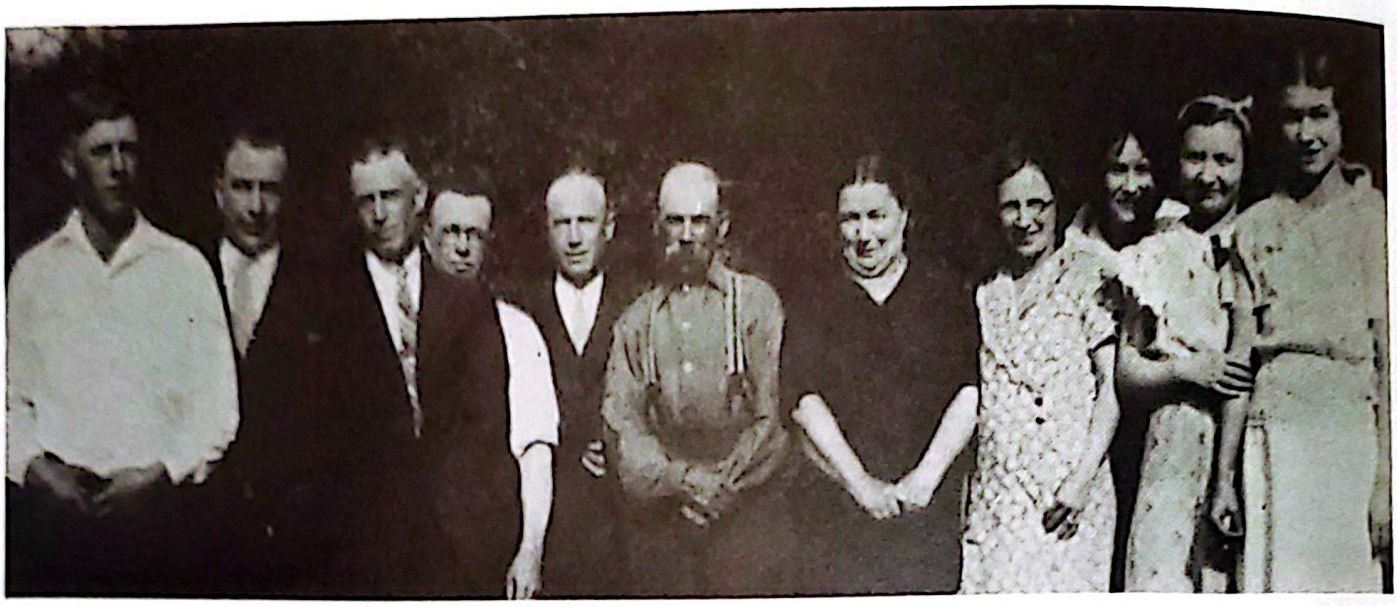
Mrs. Foisy would be very perturbed when her husband (also a trapper) would bring dead frozen wild animals into the cabin to thaw so he could skin them. The smell was out of this world, and, at such times she would disappear upstairs until the whole operation was over.

The pioneers had their annual picnic at Lac Sante, at that time called "Big Fish lake". Mr. Alladin Foisy built the first store in Foisy, and the picnic would take place just south of it (near the lake shore).

Weddings were very plain and inexpensive as they took place at home. Members of the family would entertain the newly-weds by playing the fiddle and toasting them with a little "moonshine". Mr. Edmond Foisy's sons, Eugene, Prosper or Gilbert would take turns at the fiddle — no other instrument was available at that time in the Foisy area.

Mr. Edmond Foisy's house in 1935. Their youngest daughter Helen Foisy.

When winter, or the first snow, came Edmond would pack his gear and leave with his dogs for some weeks at a time setting his traps or hunting wildlife. At times he would sleep in the snow with his dogs as his only companions. Mrs. Foisy would stay alone with the children and pray that he would return safely with meat



Mr. and Mrs. Edmond Foisy and family 1935: L. to R. — Henry, Prospere, Gilbert, Marcel, Joe, Eugene, Mr. and Mrs. Edmond Foisy, Aldina Beaupre, Jumina Delisle, Merilda Foisy and Helen Foisy.

and pelts. During these lonesome absences she would knit socks and mitts, or sew, by hand, the family clothes from the yard-goods that had been received in exchange for pelts.

We also know that whenever political meetings were held at the Foisy School, Edmond Foisy would be there to enjoy the discussions.

The family was very well organized. The children had to do the chores. The boys cut firewood, fed the horses, cattle and chickens and bring in the water. Mrs. Foisy and the girls would do the household chores. She was known as a very good gardener and a good knitter of socks and mitts.

Leisure time was spent telling stories, playing ball (twine was used to make a ball), anti-high-over, skipping rope or walking. In winter snow houses and forts were built where, again, you would witness a real good snow-ball fight in the spring. You were sure to see one of the boys with a "Black-eye".

In 1941 Mr. Edmond Foisy left his family and only to leave his lovable wife a widow. Mrs. Foisy died in 1966. They had 9 children:

Eugene Foisy — born 1897 in Leroy, N.D., U.S.A., married Rose Malo, 8 children, died 1975.

Aldina Foisy — born 1899 in Leroy N.D., married Charles Beaupre, 12 children, lives in Bonnyville, Alberta.

Marcel Joe Foisy — born 1900 in Leroy, N.D., died 1979.

Gilbert Foisy — born 1902 in Lamoureux, Alberta, married Yvonne Malo, 5 children, lives in Edmonton, Alberta.

Jumina Foisy — Born 1904 in Lamoureux, Alberta, married Clement Delisle, 9 children, lives in St. Paul, Alberta.

Prospere Foisy — born 1907 in St. Paul, Alberta, married Alma Fradette, 3 children, lives in St. Paul, Alberta.

Merilda Foisy — born 1908, lives in Edmonton.

Henry Foisy — born in St. Paul, married Rita Temovoy, 3 children, died 1979.

Helen Foisy — born 1916, lives in Edmonton, Alberta.

Mr. and Mrs. Edmond Foisy, Aug. 1935.

EUGENE FOISY (ROSE MALO)

by Hubert Foisy

Mr. Eugene Foisy arrived from North Dakota at the age of 8 years old. He homesteaded on a fraction at the age of 18. In 1924 he bought a quarter of land SW ¼ 20-56-11-W4th from his uncle Baptist Marion. He paid $800.00 for it.

Mr. Eugene Foisy was a school trustee from 1926-1938 for Foisy, Brosseau, Champalin, Mamaestic Schools and councillor for the Lafond municipality for 12 years. From 1944-1952 or 53 he served the St. Paul Municipal Council.

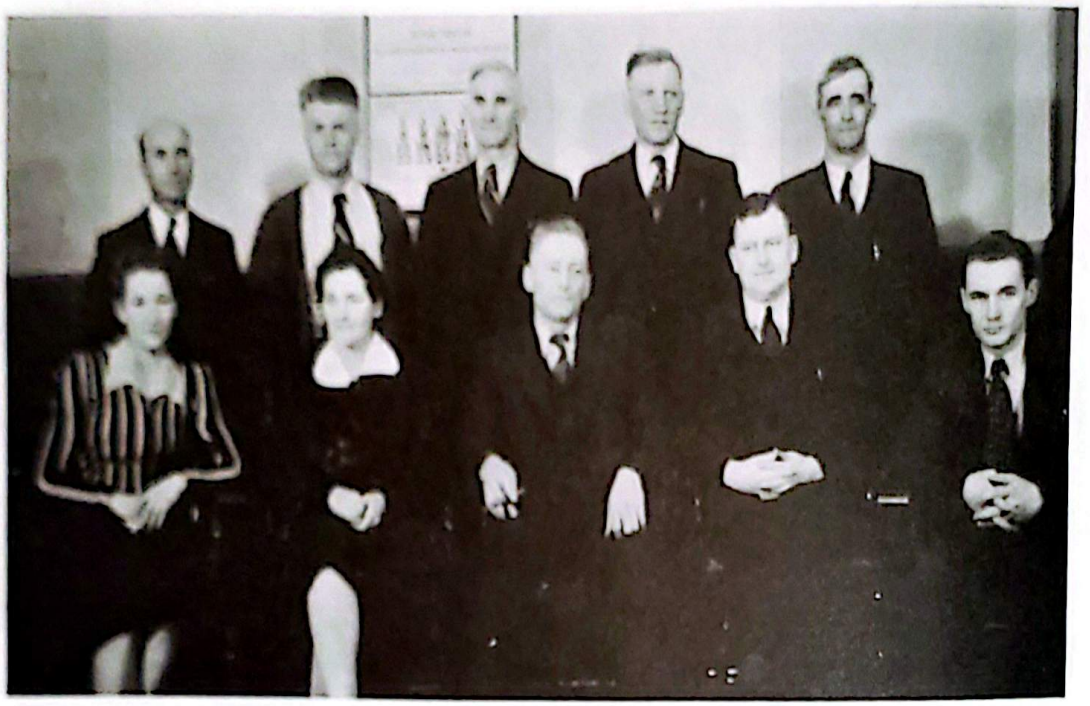
Wedding picture of Mr. E. Foisy (Rose Malo) taken in Edmonton, 1928.

Back row: Aime, Alma (Mrs. Bob Desaulmiers), Hubert, Rita (Mrs. Ray Desaulmiers), Julien, Sitting: Mrs. Foisy, Lionel, Roland, Roger & Mr. Foisy.

Whenever Mr. Eugene Foisy had to attend council meetings, Mrs. Rose Foisy (his wife) and children managed the farm. This farm was equipped with a 32 volt light plant which gave them light, and power to milk 15 cows. Mr. Eugene Foisy became president of the R.E.A. — Champlain Rural Electrical Association and in 1954 had his 32-volt light plant replaced by the Canadian Utilities. He put in four years on this committee but it was worth it. He was also a member of the F.U.A.

In his leisure time Mr. Eugene Foisy enjoyed challenging his children to a good game of horse shoes or cards. Every year, on Jan. 8, they had a big reunion of relatives and friends. There they would dance with Mr. Eugene Foisy or his son Hubert Foisy on the violin. Some guests would play cards, sing or tell stories. Everybody enjoyed such reunions. Mrs. Eugene Foisy would raise turkeys and almost every Sunday you would see a nice browned turkey for dinner — a real treat!

Eugene Foisy and Rose Malo's wedding picture in front of Lafond Roman Catholic Church in 1928.



Front row left to right: Stenographer (?), Mrs. Rice, Mr. Dupres, Mr. Rice, Secretary, Ted Theroux. Back row left to right: Eugene Foisy, Mr. Holtie, Ernest Belzil, and Joe Markowsky. 1943 Municipal Council.

His children received rural education and worked at farming with their father and mother. Mr. Eugene Foisy had his son Julien take a welding course in Edmonton. The latter was an asset to the farm when you live 22 miles out of town. Julien did well for his folks and his welding is still in use today as all six boys are still farming. Mr. Eugene Foisy's sons really followed their dad's foot steps!

By 1960 he was semi-retired, and completely retired by 1972 when he moved to St. Paul, Alta.

Mr. Eugene Foisy passed away April 8, 1975 at the age of 77. Mrs. Rose Foisy resides in St. Paul close to her eight children:

1) Aime: born 1929 in Foisy, Alta., married Gabriel Bergeron, has 4 children and lives in Lafond, Alta.
2) Julien: Born 1930 in Foisy, Alta., married Annette Lefebvre, has 5 children and lives in Foisy, Alta.
3) Rita: Born 1932 in Foisy, Alta., married Raymond Desaulniers, has 4 children and lives in St. Paul, Alta.
4) Hubert: born 1933 in Foisy, Alta., married Claire Parent, has 5 children and lives in Foisy, Alta.
5) Alma: Born 1937 in St. Paul, Alta., married Robert Desaulniers, has 2 children and lives in Edmonton, Alta.
6) Lionel: Born 1940 in St. Paul, Alta., married Carol Pietrzykowski, has 5 children and lives in Foisy, Alta.
7) Roger: Born 1946 in St. Paul, Alta., married Antoinnette Brousseau, has 4 children and lives in Foisy, Alta.
8) Roland: born 1947 in St. Paul, Alta. married Marie Roscovich, has 3 children and lives in Lafond, Alta.

LIFE AND HISTORY OF SAM FUYARCHUK AND FAMILY

by Mike Fuyarchuk

Sam Fuyarchuk (born 1883) with his parents, Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Fuyarchuk, brothers Tom and Fred, and sister Mary came to Canada, arriving in Edmonton, Alberta, in 1898-99. They lived and worked in Edmonton for a few years.

In 1903 Sam decided to go farming and filed a homestead in the Bruderheim area known as Star Peno district. In 1904 he applied for his naturalization papers as proof of being a British subject in the North West Territories (Alberta was not a province yet). He farmed on a small cultivated acreage and had quite a problem due to wet harvest weather which flooded some low lying fields or the crops froze in the early stages.

In 1908 Sam decided that if he were to continue farming he would need help. He fell in love with Justine Chanasyk of Musidora, and was married that year. Justine was the daughter of Steve Chanasyk and Katherine who had come to Canada with a family of 4 boys and 6 girls.

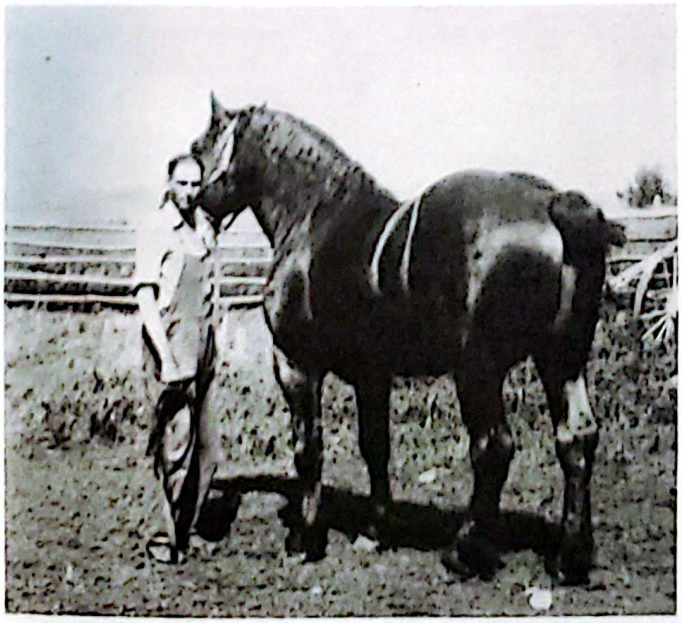
After Sam married he decided to quit farming and moved to Edmonton. He worked for Frazer Lumber Co. with his brother Fred for a while, then went carpentering with his brother-in-law Kindrat Sheremata, who had married Mary.

The oldest brother Tom, who was in good financial standing, decided to build a hotel so the family got together to build it. When it was completed and ready for business they named it The Petrograd Hotel situated on 96 street and 104 avenue. It is now known as the York Hotel.

Then war broke out. In 1914 jobs were scarce but labor was plentiful. Sam and Justine went back to farming again. They rented some land south-west of Vegreville, in the Beaver Lake district. Some of the children attended the Moscow school.

Sawing firewood, 1930.

Moving a house for William Harasym from Luzan.



Peter Fuyarchuk with a Percheron stallion — a club horse stationed at Gordon Brooks NE¼ 30-56-11-W4th, 1934.

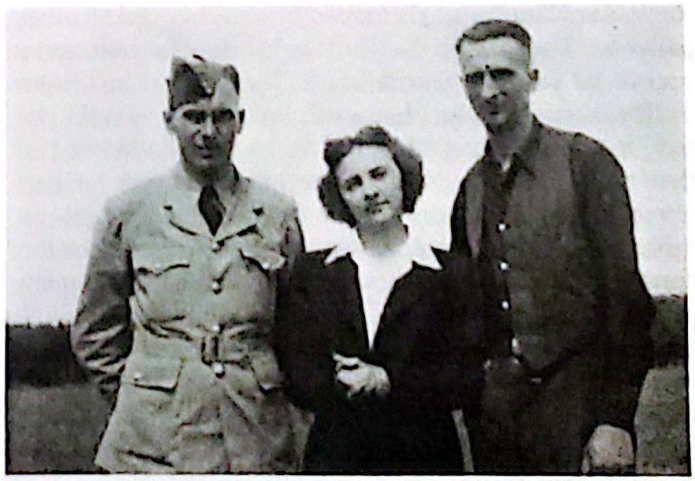
In 1919 the great outbreak of Flu hit the area. Sam was the only one in the family who was not sick. He was a very busy man, helping his sick neighbors do chores, and driving to Vegreville for their supplies of food and medicine. The sickness was so terrible and severe that any able-bodied person coming to town had to wear a mask over his mouth and nose to avoid breathing openly. These charitable people helping the sick, claim that they avoided contacting this terrible sickness which was killing so many people because of their daily use of liquor, usually moonshine brewed at their own homes.

After the flu Sam gave up his rented land and, in 1920 they joined his parents in the Two Hills area who had homesteaded 3 quarters of land on N½ 4-55-12-W4th and SE 4-55-12-W4th. From here they hauled their grain to Vegreville and Lavoy some 40 miles away. They sold their livestock there too. The shopping was done locally in Duvernay or Brosseau. George Skakun was a general merchant in Duvernay while Frank Lapierre was the blacksmith. In Brosseau, across the river, Alphonse Brosseau owned a general store and he was a fur trader.

During this time, Sam's folks, Andrew and Pearl Fuyarchuk passed away. In 1925 the last child of Sam's family was born, which totalled a family of 6: William, Mike, Peter, Nick, Mildred and Kassie. That year Sam sold the land in the Two Hills area and relocated 6 miles east of Duvernay. They farmed there during the depression crisis. Then in 1939 the Second World War broke out and Peter was called.

In 1957 Sam and Justine retired and moved to Two Hills. The land was transferred to the youngest son Nick who farmed it for 5 years. In 1962 Sam took sick and went to hospital for one month where he died at the age of 79. During his life he had never been sick — never went to see a doctor — never saw a dentist. Justine spent a lot of time being sick, and under doctor's care. She passed away in 1970, aged 81 years.

Sam's survivors are: William in Beauvallon, Mike and Peter working at the Two Hills Esso Bulk Station in Two Hills, Mildred Basiuk in Vegreville, Kassie in Edmonton. Nick living in Vegreville.



Peter, Cassie and Mike Fuyarchuk, 1941.

I, Mike, attended school in Two Hills. We would walk to school with our neighbor's boys. One morning I was introduced to chewing tobacco. It made me so sick that I couldn't continue on my way to school. I hid in a pile of hay near our path from where I could watch for the others going home. I wanted to walk back with them so that my mother would not know I had not been to school. But, she noticed my paleness and asked if I were sick. Someone told her I had been chewing tobacco, so I got a spanking. My parents were very strict. They insisted that we behave ourselves to get a good reputation.

RANKS OF OLD-TIMERS BEING RAPIDLY DEPLETED — John G. Forbes

by Rev. W.T. Cromb

(Copied from "The Vegreville Observer", dated Wednesday, July 12th, 1939)

When the news came to me yesterday morning that my old and valued friend, Jack Forbes of Two Hills, had passed away, I was greatly distressed at the sad news.

My family and Jack Forbes' family have mingled and co-mingled with each other over a period of 30 years, and our friendship and co-operation have, I think, enriched the lives of all of us.

I was reading Van Paasen's Life the other day, and he says in one place "I have never known what physical fear was." That was the make-up of Jack Forbes. He was utterly unafraid. Absolutely nothing daunted him. More than once he had turned back a herd of bellowing stampeding cattle.

No team of prancing, plunging broncos could get beyond his control, and if they wanted to travel and to travel fast — well, that suited him alright, and let them have all they wanted in dash and rush and speed.

Then he was a man who could stand pain and bodily suffering to a marked degree. When stern necessity demanded it, he would face the surgeon's lance without a quiver.

His friends will recall his experiences when he went as a patient to the famous Mayo Brothers Institution in Rochester. The surgeons treated him as they did all other patients. They were beginning to handle him as a housewife would a cracked egg. They would build him up for several weeks, they said, before they would put him on the operating table; but Jack would have none of that mollycoddling. He told the head surgeon he had come for an operation and he wanted it done without further delay, and he alone would be responsible for the consequences. Said a fellow patient to him, "Why man, you are not ready for that ordeal yet; you'll not survive it. They will carry you out in a wooden box." Jack's friend was the one who did not stand the ordeal. Jack stood it without flinching and he quickly recovered and was soon back again in the bosom of his family in Alberta.

Another characteristic feature in the life of this outstanding western rancher was his loyalty and devotion to his family. He himself could stand all the inconveniences and discomforts of a frontiersman's life but wherever he went he felt it incumbent upon himself to build a home with comfort and conveniences worthy of his wife and children.

L. to R. back row - Lucille, John and Rhoda. Seated L. to R. Gertrude, Mrs. and Mr. Forbes and Juanita taken in 1930.

This was the case when he homesteaded at Warwick. It was the same when he moved away northeast of the Saddle Lake Reserve. It was true also when he retired for a period to your own town here in Vegreville. And the latest home he established at Two Hills is a worthy memorial to the skill and industry of this indulgent husband and father.

Gertrude's first horse in 1919.

Like the rest of us, Jack had his shortcomings, but it could never be laid to his charge that he was guilty of any of the sins of the spirit, considered by Jesus to be more deadly than the sins of the flesh.

Envy, pride, malice, malevolence were unknown to him. He bore no grudge against any man, and he was a prime favorite with all classes of the people in his community. And though Jack was a busy man, he was always willing to lend a helping hand to those who were engaged in the work of the church. On many occasions I found him to be of real service in that respect.

I remember many years ago, I was instructed by the Presbytery to go and map out a new Mission Field beyond the Indian Reserve. The time was winter — the trails were heavy — the journey was long. I crossed the Indian Reserve, being, so the people said, the first Presbyterian minister to go into that area. Fourteen miles beyond that point I reached the ranch of Jack Forbes and there for ten days my wife, my boy and myself were treated to a real western hospitable welcome, not only that but Jack took time out to drive me all over the district and introduced me to the settlers, and in this way we were able to make the necessary arrangements to send in a student to provide services for the people in that isolated and widely scattered district.

When we established a church home in later years at Two Hills, it was Jack who accompanied us and helped us to secure the necessary funds that made it possible for us to have the building placed on a fine town site, the gift of his life-long friend, Dick Fife.

I have met Jack under all conditions and circumstances. I stood beside him at the open grave 29 years ago when his beloved boy, Harold, was laid to his last resting place in Vegreville. I have heard him at the baptismal of his children, pledge his word that he would endeavor to bring them up in a worthy way.

I have rejoiced with him at the banquetting table when we wished long life, health and happiness to his beloved daughter when she started out with her husband on her honeymoon tour.

But now for Jack these excitements and experiences are all past. He has reached the end of the long journey, and today his beloved wife who has truly been a beloved wife to him in every respect — she must needs bid him a long and sad farewell. May Mrs. Forbes and her loved ones be solaced and comforted with the memory of the rich and fruitful years they basked in the sunshine and love of a loving husband and a thoughtful and considerate father.

And may he know there is no path which any strange Hereafter hath

That lies too far beyond life's rim for all my love to walk with him.

The Observer is indebted to Rev. W.T. Cromb for the notes above concerning the late Mr. Forbes. Our own acquaintance with him goes back thirty-three years and Mr. Cromb's kindly references to him are thoroughly well-deserved.

Mr. Forbes is survived by his wife, one son and four daughters. The funeral was held on Tuesday afternoon at the United Church and interment made in the Riverside Cemetery. The pall-bearers were S.R. Douglas, R.C. Fife, S.A. Richardson, Frank Johnson, C.W. Moore and T.J. Hughston.

JOHN GORDON FORBES (JACK), PIONEER RANCHER

Jack Forbes was born in Bruce County, Ontario, in 1869. While yet a young boy, he migrated with his family from Ontario to Minto, North Dakota. His father, the Reverend A.G. Forbes, was the first Presbyterian clergyman in Minto, N.D. For a few years, young Jack ran his own livery barn and dray service, but soon decided that he wanted to go west up into the Territories.

In 1900, he came west and north by rail as far as Wetaskiwin. Then on by wagon trails to Old Vegreville and on to Warwick. He finally decided to file on a homestead there beside the Vermilion River. Having done that, he then returned to North Dakota, where the following spring on April 2, 1901, he married Marion Elliott and together they came to the homestead to start their new life in what was then called "The Territories".

They bought tickets to the station nearest their homestead, which was Wetaskiwin. Everything was unloaded, then repacked into covered wagons; the long trek to the northeast across the Beaver Lake flats began. The mosquitoes were very troublesome and a smudge pail was tied on to the end of the wagon pole to try to keep them away from the horses, mile after mile, with not a house in sight.

It must have been a difficult journey for the young lady, Mrs. Forbes, who had left a fine home behind in Minto, N.D. They reached their homestead in early May and lived in a tent until a house was built. That summer many trips were made back and forth to Wetaskiwin for supplies and lumber for the buildings. A small house and a barn were built before winter set in.

By 1907 he had proved his homesteading duties. These consisted of a ten-dollar purchase price for one quarter of land, a few acres of the raw land broken up and cultivated each year for three years, buildings constructed and living on the homestead for the three years. At the end of that period, a man was free to sell his homestead and move on if he wished.

By this time his herd of cattle and horses had increased considerably and he needed more range land. Much of the land around their homestead was already settled so it meant moving on to where he could get plenty of wild range land. His next move took them north of the Saddle Lake Reserve, south of where the town of Spedden is today. That must have been a difficult move for them. They now had three children: two girls, Juanita and Gertrude; and a little boy, Harold. They went to church on the Saddle Lake Reserve and the minister was Rev. Robert Steinhauer at that time.

The Indians were all very friendly and Jack often had as many as twenty working for him during the haying season. Mrs. Forbes always had a woman or a girl helping with the housework and I am sure she must have needed all the help she could get, having no electricity, no running water and the ironing done with flat irons heated on top of the kitchen stove.

Once every fall, the neighboring cattlemen got together and herded their cattle to the nearest railroad station which was Vegreville, about seventy miles away. There were many riders and a wagon or two carrying food and blankets. It would take about two weeks for the trip. The biggest obstacle on this trip was the fording of the Saskatchewan River at Brosseau. The herd would consist of several hundred head and many people came to see this annual event. Of course the wagons crossed on the ferry.

I must mention here that when the men were away on one of these cattle drives, Mrs. Forbes and the children were left at home. Jack would always arrange with his trusted and loyal friend, George Sinclair, to take great care of Mrs. Forbes and the children until he returned. A few years later, in 1910, while they were still living on the old ranch, their young son, Harold, became ill. Jack moved his family down to Vegreville where there was a hospital and a doctor. The oldest daughter was six years old and ready for school. They spent that winter in Vegreville. In spite of the best medical care they could get they lost their only son in November, 1910.

When spring came, they moved back to the ranch and from there to the Joe Bates' farm, which was less than a mile from the Champlain School. They had to be near a school. Jack had bought the Bates' farm (S.E. 36-56-12-4) and that summer he built a large, two-storey frame house, barn, granary and cattle shelters.

In the spring of 1913, he decided to sell and move back to Warwick where the school was close by and a hospital in Vegreville, twelve miles away. At that time, they had four daughters. They sold the Bates' farm to Tom McCullough. Jack had bought a half section of good farm land a mile away from the old homestead. Once again they lived in a tent until the new four-bedroom house was built. They were comfortably settled by September and shortly thereafter, their son, John was born. It was a wonderful day for them — September 13, 1913.

They did enjoy living there for a short while. But there was a scarcity of pasture land and no hay meadows, so Jack began looking to the northeast again. He found what he wanted on the George Smith land, a beautiful hay meadow and ample pasture land, which is located on N.W. ¼ 30-54-12 and surrounding quarters, in the Two Hills District.

Once again, lumber had to be hauled from Vegreville, a distance of twenty-five miles, by horses and wagons, to construct a new house and barns. This was his last move. Many years of hard work followed. There was plenty of water and good hay; each year a large herd of fat cattle was taken from the big corrals to the Vegreville Stockyards.

The hills from which Two Hills gets its name are located on this land. The old Battleford Trail used to run between these two hills.

By 1939, Mr. Forbes, having struggled with poor health for several years, passed away in July, at the age of 69 years; he was buried in Vegreville Cemetery; thus ended 39 years of the rugged life of one more pioneer.

War broke out in September, 1939. John L. Forbes enlisted the following spring. His wife and children were moved to Calgary where they could be near her parents. Their son, John Douglas, was in need of medical care frequently and Leola was able to take him to a good doctor there.

Back at the old ranch, no Forbes men left. Mrs. Forbes Sr. and daughter, Gertrude Domet, stuck together and fought the war years out together on the home front. This was a real struggle. But those two pioneer women, mother and daughter and young Jack Domet, who was only about 13 years old at that time, stuck together for the next five, long years. By hard work and determination, they managed to pay off the old debts, including the mortgage against the land. By 1945, they held clear titles to all the land. To those two women, we owe many thanks for the fact that the old Forbes ranch is still in the Forbes name today. Mrs. Forbes Sr. passed away in May, 1953, in Edmonton.

Late in 1945, John L. Forbes returned from war service and brought his wife and family from Calgary back to the old home. For another thirty-three years, the place was managed by John L. He passed away in August, 1979. So the old home is still in the Forbes' name and on with the third generation. I hope they pause briefly once in awhile to say "thank you" to those brave pioneers who made possible the freedom, comforts and security of life we enjoy today.

GERTRUDE FORBES, DOMET, ENGLISH, THOMPSON

by Gertrude Thompson

I was born in Warwick on December 3, 1904. My father was Jack Forbes and my mother, Marion Elliott. My father had a homestead in Brosseau so I have lived in this district north of the Saskatchewan River and south of the Saskatchewan River, all my life.

I had three husbands, all good men, which I loved differently. I have one son and four grandchildren, which have been a real pleasure to me.

Over the years I have made many wonderful friends, which has been a pleasure to have known and enjoyed; quite a few have left us now but they are not forgotten. We have had two worlds, the old and the new; have lived through two world wars, good times and bad, happiness and sorrow.

Love of the land, and livestock, all animals in general, were inherited from my father and mother. Roots run deep; its in the blood and breeding.

I have never been without a horse and for the last forty years have been breeding them. First I had Saddlebreds, royal show horses from Kentucky, then I got interested in Palaminos, got a ¾ Arabian stallion. I liked the disposition, but the colts were not all palamino color. So I sold him and got a purebred Arabian, and later a purebred mare; have been at that breed ever since.

I have sold a lot of colts, some to British Columbia, and some as far east as Nova Scotia, and lots in Alberta. But time does run out; it was a lot of fun, and a pleasure. Still makes me proud to produce something beautiful.

TRIFON AND MARY FEDORUK

by Evelyn Popowich

Two brothers, Filmon and Kost Fedoruk with their family came from Evankewtse, Ukraine, sailed, then rail to South Edmonton in 1902. They built a large raft and set out on the North Sask. river. Duvernay was the most accessable for unloading their raft and getting their meager belongings up to a road and on to the Shepinetz Kaleland area. Here they took adjacent homesteads.

Trifon Fedoruk and wife Mary Karpowich.

Filmon and Maria Batrenowski had brought their 3 children with them Trifon and the oldest Frozena and George while Donka (Mrs. Sam Weresiuk) of Vegreville Jennie (Mrs. Peter Diachuk) of Vernon, and brother Dave Fedoruk from Edmonton were Canadian born. Trifon the eldest best depicts their lives. Trifon, after 2 years school was, in his parents eyes well enough educated. He began learning his father's carpentry trade. His parents had the first oil press and people within the

In 1922 Trifon became a licensed projectionist and still had a license till 1980.

Trifon's homemade model plane test for aerodynamics, prelude to the full size model.

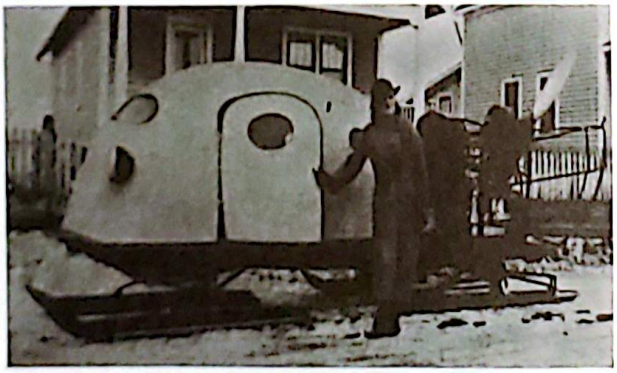
Trifon Fedoruk's homemade plane which was ready for an engine, which was lifted by a strong wind and smashed to the ground.

Trifon Fedoruk was a steam engineer on this threshing outfit in 1910.

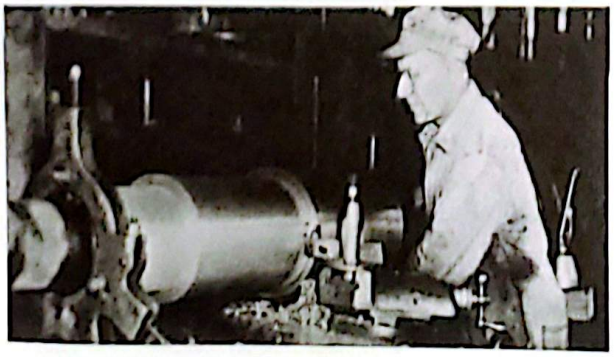
Trifon Fedoruk devised a way to plow and disc in one operation. He took his own photo! His photo hobby was well under way.

Trifon Fedoruk Happy Holidayer (1912) with his homemade "camper" to pull behind his homemade car.

Trifon Fedoruk with his car he assembled from spare parts. He had to make parts that were unavailable in his shop to put the car in running order.



Trifon Fedoruk and Pete Diachuk made a homemade "snow machine" Snow-mo-Bille. (1936) Rosina Fedoruk beside it, goes on her nursing midwife duties despite the snow bound roads.



Trifon Fedoruk at work at the Dominion Bridge Plant at his trusty lathe. He was instrumental in Edmonton 5th St. bridge coming to be. He photographed the site from both banks and with his famous 3rd grade calculation was able to estimate cost, for material and labour and came shockingly close to the final actual cost.

Mr. and Mrs. Barne's house in Duvernay before the lean-to was added on. Picture taken by Trifon Fedoruk in 1912.

Trifon Fedoruk cutting slough hay in 1915.

30 miles radius came with their sunflower, hemp, flax and poppyseed to have some pure oil made. Trifon was fascinated with moving parts, and soon he became a top-class mechanic. He travelled locally to set up new machinery and repair the old, because the majority of the settlers were still not well acquainted with binders, threshers, and tractors. He seemed a genius at coaxing the old equipment to life again. His local transport was his trusty motor cycle, and when he blew a piston he calmy fashioned a new one. While travelling, as a farm mechanic Trifon began to question, the practise of doing one soil operation at a time and fuel. He fashioned a method of attaching a set of discs beside a breaker plow and as a result, one plowing operation also had 4 or 5 disc photo operations over it as well. By 1918 Trifon had a wife (Senafta Werenka).

Trifon's hobby of still photography began during WWI by 1919 he had his first Edison film photo projector. His first license to operate a Picture Show came in 1922. He still has all his major movie equipment including his home made projectors and cameras. His wife Senafta died six years after their marriage, but bore 3 children. Williona of Calgary, Micheal of Edmonton and Elsie 1922-1928. In 1925 he married Mary Karpowich and they moved to Vegerville. They had 2 children Ernest of Victoria and Lola of Edmonton. Trifon researched and built a scale model airplane for testing. They took off Vegerville main street and were shocked when the plane ended among the overhead wires. He proceeded to build his airplane anyway, a bigger and better, when it was ready waiting for the motor to put in a heavy wind storm came and whipped up the light structure and smashed it and the discouraged Trifon abandoned the idea of a personal plane, instead he decided a car was next, which he soon built himself. A year later he added a home made holiday trailer and made 12 people happy at the Birch Lake Resort. In 1936 Trifon and his brother-in-law made a snowmobile. Frederick Fedoruk (Trifon's cousin) took a first ride, when as a registered nurse mid-wife, she was called on, despite the snow bound roads.

In Vegerville Trifon set up first professional photographic Studio. He also had fashioned enough transportable equipment to take "on the scene" still and movies as well. Almost all public doings in north eastern Alberta, would see him laden with equipment documenting our history.

In 1940 they moved to Edmonton where Standard Iron and Steel Co. now Domonion Bridge only guarenteed him 6 months work as a machinest. As they saw his talents his work there lasted 21 years. After a day's work he was at (his hobby) with the Golden West Shows.

Mrs. Mary Fedoruk had her household duties, and by no means a wall flower, she did custom catering, a 25 year avocation that would be humbly appreciated by his club.

Trifon is still an active projectionest. His personal collection of stills and movies document 50 years of the pioneer history of North Eastern Albeta.

KOST AND ANNE FEDORUK

by Andrew Fedoruk

My father, Kost Fedoruk, was born in Ewancouti, Bukowina, Austria-Hungary. Before World War I he served in the Austro-Hungarian army as a horseman or "Hussar". After this term in the army he found employment in a drug store and hospital owned by a Lord. His duty was to deliver prescriptions and to do janitor work. He was getting tired of that life when he heard about Canada and the opportunities in the new land where land was cheap and he got the fever to go overseas.

My father had become a carpenter and married Anne Rusnak of Galatsia. When he discussed his plans with his employer he was warned about going to a wild land with a young wife and two small children, Matthew and Kate, where life would be tough. Ignoring these warnings father bought his ticket and the supplies he

Mrs. Anna Fedoruk Sidor's mother in 1928.

thought would be needed for a pioneer life. He finally arrived in the locality of Two Hills to take a homestead. This was near what later became Kaleland, when the CPR built its branch line from Edmonton to Lloydminster. There his 5 other children were born.

Kost was to become a blacksmith. He would leave Mother at the homestead when he went out working. One day she saw a man staggering to the dugout. She realized he was an Anglo-Saxon and she could speak no English. Using sign language he pointed to his mouth so she realized he wanted food. She made him a meal of salt pork, eggs, bread and weak tea. Then he indicated he wanted to sleep. What was she to do? She made up a

Rosina Fedoruk with patient at Edmonton General Hospital in 1936.

bed on the floor with gunny sacks and a quilt. No sooner did his head hit the pillow than he began to snore. Next morning he asked for breakfast which she served him. As he was leaving he pulled out a roll of money; peeled off a twenty dollar bill and insisted that she take it. Imagine all that money for one night's lodging and two meals! No one ever saw or heard of him again.

One time when Father came home he brought a pane of glass, which he installed. There had been no windows in the home before. He also placed two strong planks across the door which, when put into position in the slots at night, would ensure safety. To conserve the oil for the lamp, Mother would leave the front of the fire-box of the stove open. She had put the children to bed when she heard a noise outside. Then two eyes peered at her through the window. She hid the light from the stove. The door began to rattle! She grabbed a pot of boiling water and waited for the door to break. The noise ceased and everything was quiet once more. Never did she find out whether it were man or beast!

After the birth of their last child in 1918 Father and his family moved to a farm near Beaver Crossing, near Grand Center, Alberta. There he bought a 15-30 McCormick-Deering tractor and broke land for his neighbors.

In 1931 he turned the land over to Edward, who later turned it over to his mother, and lastly to Mike who still lives there.

Father and Mother retired in Edmonton. He died as a result of an accident during the flood of July 1945 in Vegreville and was buried in the Riverside Cemetery there. Mother passed away January 1951 and was buried in Szepenitz, Alberta.

Mrs. Paul Harbarenko (Catherine) was born 1898 and Matthew (1901) in Bukowina. The other children born on the homestead were: Mary (Mrs. Mike Bandura) 1905; Edward 1906; Rosina (Mrs. Peter Johanssen) 1907; Nick 1911; Andrew 1913; Metro 1916 and Mabel 1918.

SILVER AND JENNY FEDORUK

by Evelyn Popowich

Somewhere around 1902, there arrived in Canada, Kost and Annie Fedoruk and their 2 children, Mafte and Katie. They headed out west and settled in the Kaleland, Alberta area. Kost was born and raised in EVANKEWTSE, Ukraine. Annie (Rusnak) was born and raised in NEPOLOKEWTSE, Ukraine. The children they raised were schooled at Kaleland and from their second farm in Beavercrossing near Grande Centre. The children are as follows:

MAFTE — Born 1897 in the old country, emmigrated with his parents. At 17 or 18 years of age he began work with the CN Railway. While so employed at Brulle, near Hinton, he had a fatal accident.

KATIE — Born 1897 in the old country too, and came to Canada with her parents Married Paul Harbarenko of Beavercrossing. They had 13 children. At the age of 50 she was killed in a farm accident.

MIKE — Born 1902, became a farmer in the Grande Centre area, settled with Katie Werenka, had 3 daughters and now still resides on his farm there.

MARY — Born 1905, became an accomplished horsewoman, married Mike Bandura of Hamlin, settled in Brosseau, was locally known as a pioneer Veterinarian, and assisted at many child births. They raised 9 children on the farm and Mary now travels among her children as they need her. Mike passed away, August 1979.

ROSINA — Born 1907, became the first nurse in the Two Hills — Brosseau area. She graduated from the Edmonton General Hospital in 1932. Our area remembers her as a good mid-wife. She married Peter Johanson, they raised 2 children and now reside in Calgary.

Kost Fedoruk (Sidor's Father) in 1934. Sidor's McCormick Tractor 1928 Model.

EDWARD — Born 1908, became a miner and lumberman. At the age of 38, he was employed at the Coal Mine in Mercoal, then he died suddenly (February, 1946).

SIDOR — Born May 23, 1910, farms in the Brosseau area, married Jenny Wanchulak of Downing, raised 8 children.

NICK — Born 1911. He was a dray-man at Two Hills, a Town Policeman, a miner, and cooked for a lumber

Nick Fedoruk, Drayman in Two Hills in 1934.

camp. He joined the Canadian Army and gave his best in WW II, came back permantly disabled. As a Veteran he was able to take a medical x-ray course and was one of the first to be employed at Two Hills Hospital. He also worked later at the Stettler Hospital. September 20, 1972, he died suddenly at the age of 61.

ANDREW — Born 1913, became the first Two Hills Jeweller-Watch Repairman. He married Rose Sherstianka of Brosseau, they raised 4 boys and they now reside on an acreage near Duvernay, where Andrew still practises his craft.

METRO — Born 1916, became a farmer and resides in Clairsholm.

MABEL — Born 1918, worked out as a young lady and met and married Toby Epp, raised 3 children and now resides in Victoria, B.C.

By the time Sidor had left home at 19, he had attended the Schools of Kaleland, Wattsford and Two Hills, he had seen the CP Railway built through his father's Kaleland farm, helped his father brush and break their Kaleland homestead and their Beavercrossing farm.

Mabel Fedoruk as Ukrainian Queen (1943) in Edmonton, Alberta.

When Sidor set out for Brosseau, he had the clothes he wore, his trusty gun, loads of ambition, a strong back and a keen mind and not much else. Having no one to keep his gun in top condition, Sidor soon became a self-taught gunsmith. William Half, and Ben Moses are old-time Indians who fondly recall "Sheeder's" talents. They began to tell others and soon the whole Saddle Lake Reserve knew him as "paska seegunny eggo nista" (a dependable gun-maker). Sidor began to work for Camille Gamache as a farm laborer. Then he rented some land and it wasn't till 1936 that the Canadian National Bank loaned him enough money to buy that quarter and file for the homestead fraction next to it, all with NO COLLATERAL. Thus he came to own the land once farmed by Mr. & Mrs. Leo Despins. Sidor began the use of diagonal cultivation, a practise he learned from his father. Soon local "Brosseauians" began to prefer calling him "Silver" and he accepted the change. He now answers to both names.

Meanwhile at Downing, Jennie (Genia) was born February 15, 1920, the 5th of 9 children to Mr. & Mrs. Mike Wanchulak. Mike had been born and raised in CHERNOVATZ, Ukraine, as was his wife Eva (Olinyk), but they came to Canada singly, were married at Vegreville, and then took a homestead at Downing. They were luckier than most because the three years of old country school Mike had, gave him the "REEDIN, RYTEN and RITMATIC". Evenings saw Mike reading any paper or book he could practise on, and Eva spinning or knitting or sewing. Their children arrived as such:

Mr. and Mrs. Mike Wanchulak family. Back row with light coat is Jennie Fedoruk.

KATIE — Born 1912, married George Werenka of Vilna, raised 11 children, they now reside in Edmonton.

MARY — Born 1914, married Metro Bandura of Hamlin, raised 12 children and passed away February 13, 1980, 5 years after her husband died.

NICK — Born 1916, married Ann Orleski from Willingdon and raised 3 children, and passed away October, 1979.

BILL — Born 1918, married Annie Prochuk of Hamlin, raised 2 children and they now reside in Calgary.

GENIA — Born 1920, (Jennie now) married Sidor Fedoruk of Brosseau, raised 8 children and they still live on their Brosseau farm.

GEORGE — Born 1922, married Katie Brodyck of Smoky Lake, raised 3 children and reside in Edmonton (Millwoods).

ANNIE — Born 1924, married Steve Kimak of Bellis, raised 6 children, they now reside in Two Hills.

HELEN — Born 1926, married Metro Dmetruk of Bellis, raised 6 children, they now reside in Edmonton.

WALTER — Born 1928, now reside in Surrey, B.C. with his wife Sue (Tittile) from Evansburg.

These children served their schooling at Sunny Knoll School between Downing and Vilna. They recall a teacher's name — Bill Tkachuk, recently died in the fall of 1979, had been living in Willingdon.

Mike Wanchulak made sure his children learned survival lessons. He got a homestead 22 miles away in the Goodfish Lake area and sent the children there for the "school summer holidays". Bill — 15, Jennie — 13, and George — 11, were responsible for a cattle herd, for picking stones, and roots and for picking strawberries and blueberries and layering them with sugar in crocks for the winter. They had a milk cow and a house with a sod floor and make shift beds. At 13, Jennie used the milk and learned to make mountains of pretty fair pancakes. A stick, thrashed against an empty bathtub made enough noise to scare away any night-creature that might decide to share their fare. Every 2 weeks the parents arrived to check on the situation and re-stock their supply of flour, lard, baking powder, pork, eggs, and potatoes. Except for hot salt water to clean wounds and fresh milk in a bread crust as a poultice for infection, they had only providence's smile and their own wits for survival. Jennie's washing was more thorough when she used the bleach she made by stirring wood ashes into hot water and discarding the sediment. She also soon discovered that stale cottage cheese in a hot fry pan made a pretty fair grade of "homestead mozarella". By age 12 she had taken over her mother's responsibility of knitting the family's woolens, including at least 18 pairs of mitts and 18 pairs of socks. There wasn't too much about a one-room shack in an empty River Valley that could scare or stump this young lady. She quit school after passing into grade nine, to be more helpful at home.

L. to R. Mabel Fedoruk, Jennie Wanchulak (Bride), Sidor Fedoruk (Groom), Rayefta Melnychuk and Tom Melnychuk.

By the time she was 17, Silver Fedoruk had already heard about her. It was inevitable that they meet since Jennie's sister had married Metro Bandura and Silver's sister had married Mike Bandura. These brothers lived only 20 miles apart crossing the river at the "Vee-veez" on Silver's farm.

They were married July 21, 1938 at the Downing Church with Mr. Tom and Mrs. Rayefta (Ruth) Melnychuk of Brosseau as witnesses. Jennie's maids were Pearl Shapka and Mary Katan, with Silver's sister Mabel as candle holder. Silver's best men were Louis Saulou and Bill Logozar, both of the Brosseau area. Their donation was $120.00 and the bolts of material and towels were lovely useful gifts.

Several ladies came bearing live hens under their arms, a really useful start for the Homesteaders. With their treasures, the Honeymooners headed back to Silver's Brosseau farm where their work was certainly "cut out for them".

Their first child arrived a year later and was only one month old when Jennie took to their stooking, moving the babe from stook top to stook top out of harm's way.

With very little money, farmers bartered goods and services for survival. Many farmers became good hunters since wild game was "free food" to anyone who became any good at it. Silver's talents as a gunsmith were much appreciated by farmers and Indians as well! He learned to sharpen axes, charged 25¢ to file a saw. He trapped rabbits for food and 5¢ a pelt. A really fine coyote pelt netted $2.50 and less trouble for the chickens. He sold greenfeed at ¼¢ per bundle — 400 bundles for 1 dollar!! Seven head of cattle netted a total of $72.00.

They dare not kill a chicken or there'd be less eggs, so partridge became a good substitute. Many a North Saskatchewan River fish found itself caught in their woven-willow basket nets, and on to Jennie's table. Their "Home Place" SE-20-56-12 was the Brosseau-Ispas river crossing and the clean slope roadway was well travelled. Silver and Jennie had the only boat there, so they became the "ferry". Many people came and brought news or carried messages on and strangers became acquaintences and then friends. Jennie was careful not to ferry anyone who didn't identify himself and his local connections.

One year they acquired 2 sets of horses and planned the next years' work for them. The winter brought an epidemic and spring saw 3 bedraggled horses to take the workload of the original 8. A terrible setback and disappointment to this struggling young couple, but there came more.

Sidor Fedoruk plowing Lucille Archinuk's garden in 1979 with his pride and joy 15-30 McCormick 1928 model tractor.

Fieldstones were a constant problem to farmers and they used horses to haul some away but the large ones were simply "buried deeper". Silver was at such a task July of 1942. He was inside a great hole he'd dug next to a huge rock, when the rock slid into the hole, crushing him badly. He was uanble to work for almost 8 months. His threshing was by-passed because he couldn't help in their crew and that year snow fell early. That March he fashioned a sled and mounted on it a large saw and a grain crusher and went custom working from farm to farm and kept the family "larder" meagerly stocked. He threshed that spring but the stubble fire escaped and caught the straw piles and granaries and All was lost!! Within a couple of weeks Jennie, with great difficulty gave birth, at home to twins, A Boychild — still born, and a Girlchild that survived. There was more tragedy. Silver's brother Nick had arrived injured, from the Second World War. One consolation was that he had also brought dynamite which was unattainable at home. He taught Silver to use it and Silver began "Custom Blasting" large field stones for neighbours. Because of Silver's hunting and gunsmithing, he met many Indians who later worked for him. His daughters remember many Indian playmates, and gifts of intricately beaded mocassins and mitts and still retain some Cree vocabulary even now. Christmas of 1947 was great — the girls had a new brother, arrived at the NEW Two Hills Hospital with Dr. Winitoy's help. Soon Silver and Jennie acquired more land, more work, more responsibilities and more faces around the breakfast table. "Auntie Jennie" was a favorite and her childen often made room for other children at the table, whether overnight or semi-permanent guests.

Jennie became an independent farmerette quickly. Her father took ill one winter and she was determined to see him. She hitched her team to the sleigh, baggaged her kiddies off to a capable neighbour and set off to Vilna. She visited her dad and on her way home, stopped at her sister Mary's at Hamlin to sleep over. The next day Mary's husband harnessed Jennie's horses as a gentlemanly gesture to his wife's sister. She hopped into the sleigh and all HELL BROKE LOOSE!! The horses bolted into an uncontrolled gallop, down the river bank, across the ice, up the other bank and on and on!! The horses were in exchanged positions — the blindered horse was terrified of all he could see, the seeing horse wouldn't understand the blinders. They ran on with Jennie trying to talk them to get calm, to no avail. When she saw it was no use, she began yelling for help because at that speed she dared not jump off the sleigh. The Budzak's heard her call and realized her predicament. They risked their lives, making a human barricade to stop the runaway team. Mr. Buzak re-harnessed the totally lathered horses and Jennie set off home at a cooling trot — thankful someone had heard her.

Anyone knowing Silver remember him as a perfecitonist, pelting, trapping, sawing, gunsmithing, sharpening or farming. Neighbours insisted they lend him their axes, guns, saws, or machinery, because these always were

Sidor's 1951 fur catch.

returned in far better shape. Silver loves a good story, pole-fishing, a lonesome violin serenade, and an eager bunch for a good hunt. He has yet to meet the deer that outsmarted him, though Jennie often made "track soup".

Jennie loves music, laughter, a good practical joke, home crafts and certainly, good food. Her wild game recipes are covetted. She has one which brought many a chuckle through the years:

How to prepare tough deer meat:

Prepare as your taste demands,

Place in roaster, add one medium stone and plenty water,

Cover and set in 350 degrees oven,

Periodically test stone, when its soft the meat will be Tender!!!

The children remember growing up in three different homes, each with some tears, some sorrow, some good thrashings, much much laughter, and always plenty to

Pete Horon bus driver with the Fedoruk children from L. to R. Dianne, Debby, Silver, Dennis and Leonard.

do. They were all raised without the benefit of rural electrification and running water. They soon learned independent financial means. They milked cows and sold cream, grew cucumbers for sale and picked and sold wild berries. Cranberries were picked and carried two miles up the second river bank to the roadway where the pick-up waited. One evening's deliveries netted $80.00 at $2.00 a milk pail. A good summer meant five or six such pickings, including Saskatoons and Low Bush cranberries. Many a Two Hills and St. Paul housewife boasted of home made jellies without ever leaving her home in search of them, thanks to those Industrious Fedoruk kids.

They are a closely knit family because there was only 22 years between the birth of the first and the last of the 8 children. The boys soon learned to play with life size tractors rather than toy ones, and the girls had real doll babies and a real house to keep rather than play houses. They learned to associate with all ages and this is quite visible even today. Not one of the children finds any difficulty in striking up a conversation whether the stranger be a 3-month old or a 93-year old!!

School-day mornings were "organized confusion". Five faces boarded Mr. Peter Horon's bus, at 7:10 a.m., but only after the cows were milked etc., and all the lunches were made besides the problem of being sure all 5 pairs of socks were matched, by only a coal oil lamp. They never lacked for entertainment, although two had left home before the rest got a very precious bicycle.

Radio batteries were $7.00 each and so the kids' musical entertainment was listening to Silver's lonesome violin, till they decided to learn to sing. Sing they did and still do. A family picnic sees, accordions, violin, guitars and heavy rich voices, all blending to be heard a mile away. (Mrs. Jack Archinuk has informed them). The kids are now gone their separate ways but are often called on to sing whether alone or in pairs or in a group.

Silver and Jennie worked hard to make sure each child could have the training it wanted. Here's how the kids grew up:

IRENE — Born July 28, 1939, schooled in Champlain by correspondence at home and St. Laurant school under Helen Bandura's supervision, in Edmonton and then in Two Hills. She worked at Edmonton Hairdressing shop and St. Paul Drycleaners and the Two Hills Hospital before marrying Ed Krochmal of Lafond (Walter Senior's son). They are raising 4 children on the farm 6 miles north of St. Paul. Irene is a well known interior-exterior house painter and furniture re-finisher.

EVELYN — Born June 7, 1943, the twin of a still born boy. All her 12 grades were taken at Two Hills. Then she won a Bursary allowing her to take a Lab and X-ray Medical Course. Graduating in May, 1963, she worked at the Hospitals of Willingdon and Mundare, married Alexander Popowich (Fred's son from the Lafond Riverside area) in 1964. She worked then in the Two Hills Hospital, Fort Saskatchewan and Rocky Mountain House Hospital. They are now residing near Lac Sante Beach (Brosseau) on a farm raising 2 boys.

October 7th, 1978. Sidor and Jennie Fedoruk's family. Cheryl standing behind her Mother and Dad. The children are seated (older to younger), all mates standing behind. Occasion is Dennis and Paulette's wedding.

LEONARD — Born December 23, 1947, schooled at Two Hills had worked at the local Cockshutt shop till he was sure he wanted to farm. He married Linda Krochmal (Walter Senior's daughter from Lafond) and they set up farming in earnest. They also rent Dad Silver's land and he helps them, being an extra experienced hand, when they need it. Leonard and his dad are often found on a winter's evening preparing coyote pelts together, or out together on a Big Game hunt. Leonard and Linda reside on the farm in Brosseau, raising 2 children.

DIANE — Born December 19, 1950, she arrived a couple months after the premature still birth of her twin, much to Dr. Kay's surprise! She took her 12 school years at Two Hills and a CNA course at the Red Deer Hospital. She worked at Edmonton's General Hospital and Royal Alexander Hospital. With almost 10 years of hospital work she decided she wanted another career. August, 1976 she married Melvin Yagos (Westlock) and began work as a Bank of Montreal teller, in Westlock where she, her husband and their daughter are living.

DENNIS — Born March 19, 1952 (came when Diane was only 13 months old. She was weaned but not watched and poor Dennis screamed from an empty stomach till someone caught Diane stealing his bottle!!) He took all 12 years of school at Two Hills and added some mechanics courses at St. Paul. While working at Henry Brault's St. Paul Service Station (Texaco) he completed his 4-year apprenticeship and became an Auto Mechanic. He later bought the same shop, married Paulette Faucher in October, 1978. (Ed Faucher from St. Edward now St. Paul) He shares their jewellery, gift shop in St. Paul as well as his Service Station.

DAVID — Born May, 1953. He died only 3 days later.

DEBBIE — Born June 3, 1954, schooled 11 years at Two Hills and graduated from the St. Paul Regional High School. She began as a Two Hills Bank of Montreal teller and transferred to Edmonton's Gold Bar Branch. June, 1975, she married Borden Zaleschuk (Nick Zaleschuk from Plain Lake, now Vegreville). They lived in Vegreville where she worked at the Bank of Montreal, moving to Evergreen Mobile Home Park near Ft. Saskatchewan where she worked at the Credit Union. Debbie now works at the Vegreville Treasury Branch. They reside in Ranfurly and are raising a daughter.

SILVER — Born February 18, 1956 (his father's namesake) He schooled at Two Hills and tried many jobs before deciding on the Hinton Pulp Mill. He married Carol Shipeley (from Myrnam, now Hinton) They reside in Hinton and are raising a daughter while Silver having trained at most positions, about at the mill.

CHERYL — (Ann) Born June 28, 1961 (Baba Fedoruk's namesake) Served her 12 years at Two Hills plus receiving 5 months of Business Education at the St. Paul Regional High School. Work experience with the High School office, Town office and the County office, gave her enough experience to head into Edmonton where she is employed by the Advanced Education and Manpower department of the Provincial Government.

Nick Fedoruk as Two Hills town police in 1935.

Leonard getting a hair cut from Apprentice barber Clarence. Onlookers L. to R. Silver, Dennis and Jim Fedoruk.

Silver and Jennie's heavy work is done, but they still help when their children and grandchildren need them. "Baba and Gido" Fedoruk live on their farm in Brosseau still without running water or electricity. When asked "Are you retired?" they simply sigh . . . . . and answer, "No just plain TIRED!!"

ANDREW FEDORUK — THE WATCHMAKER

by Andrew Fedoruk

Andrew, son of Kost and Anna Fedoruk, was born 1913 in Andrew, Alberta. He attended school in Two Hills from 1920-1927. He went on to the Duclos Home in South Edmonton and attended Queen Alexandra School until Grade 7. With his parents he moved to a farm in Beaver Crossing and went to school there until he

L. to R.: Bernie, Andrew Fedoruk, Harvey, Rose Fedoruk, Jim & Clarence, taken in 1968 in Two Hills.

Andrew Fedoruk and Rose Fedoruk on their wedding day, May 15, 1941.

Double wedding of Sherstianka sisters: Rose on left to Andrew Fedoruk, Mary to Mike Jacura; in 1941.

completed Grade 9. It was there that Andrew began his career as a watch-maker. He would trade things for old watches. These he would take apart and, with the parts, he made a watch. He needed a hair-spring so took a length of horse-hair. The watch did work but it would not keep time.

When he left school in 1932 he went to Cold Lake to work for Donat Trudel, in a confectionery. There he was given a little corner where he could repair watches and fiddles. While he worked there he was the only person of Slavic origin in Cold Lake. Most of the people were of French origin with a few Germans, Swedes and English mingling with them. He had to learn some French to be able to wait on the customers.

During the years 1932-1935 Andrew, while at Cold Lake has some experiences to relate. He remembers Jack Bender and Jack Longrush (alias 3-finger Jack) who were fugutives from the U.S.A., and were making their money at playing poker.

A meteorite landed north of Cold Lake and, for a few weeks, the town was bustling with scientists trying to find where it had landed.

Once, when walking to French Bay, to look for work, he was caught in a blizzard. He found an old log granary with a wooden floor. By this time it was getting dark. Andrew had a letter from his brother and a few matches in his pockets. He lit a fire inside the granary and stayed there all night. Next morning a friend, Bill Nolan, came looking for him and found a very cold fellow. He bundled Andrew in a buffalo robe and brought him to Cold Lake.

One winter Andrew went trapping with Sam Fedoruk. They lived in a cabin which had belonged to a spy called Joseph Smith, who was hiding from the law, hoping to find his way back to Germany before being caught.

Another time Andrew and Sam were in a boat on the lake when a storm came up. Sam knew there was an island close-by where Louis Rocher had a cabin. When approaching the island, shots were heard coming from the cabin and in their direction, so a quick detour was made. Old Louis Rocher had experienced the visit of looters and believed they were returning.

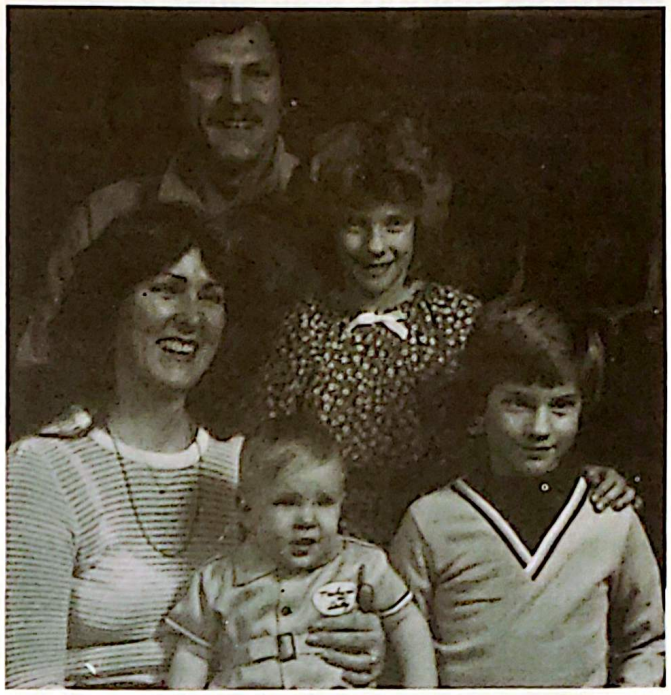
In 1935, Two Hills was booming and Andrew was asked to open a jewellery shop where he could repair watches and violins. In 1941 he married Rose Sherstianka, daughter of Steven and Veronica Sherstianka at the United Church in Lavoy with Rev. Robert H. Wood officiating. Afterwards, there was a reception at her father's farmstead, SE¼ 6-56-11-W4th, at Brosseau.

Rose began school at 6 years of age at Mamaestie. She recalls teachers Bill Kordowski, Metro Nickilaychuk and William Cherniawsky. For her last three years she went to her grandmother's, Angela Palamaruk's, in Rannock. There John Buk taught her — he would later teach all her children in Two Hills! When school was out for holidays she would return to her parents' farm.

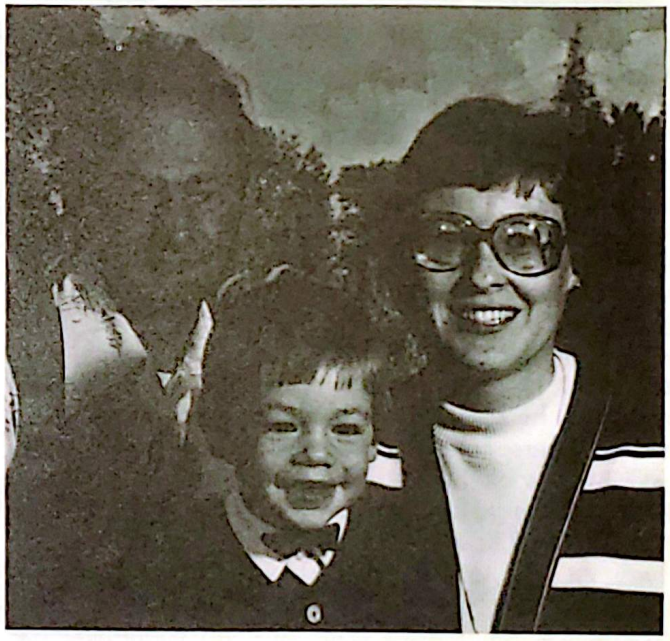
In 1934, a young man, Andrew Fedoruk, came to the Sherstianka farm as an occasional labourer. He took a fancy to the daughter, Rose, and 5 years of sporadic courtship began. When he had set up the shop in Two Hills, he was ready to ask for her hand in marriage.

Andrew Fedoruk as a young jeweller in Two Hills in 1936 standing in front of his shop.

L. to R.: Mitchell, Michael, Front row: Monica & Michelle with Harvey & Beatrice Fedoruk in background, residing in Leduc.



On lap Clinton, Benjamin next and Lenora by Dad, Jim & Nell Fedoruk in 1980.



Clarence and Louise Fedoruk with their son, Robert.

Mike Jacura had the same idea for Rose's sister Mary, so a double wedding was planned.

On May 15, 1941, at Lavoy United Church the two couples were married. After the reception Rose and Andrew went to live in Two Hills where he worked until 1958. The Casault Engineering Company was building the chemical plant in Duvernay and Andrew found employment there, until 1959.

In 1960 Andrew obtained an acreage at the corner NW¼ 14-55-12-W4th from Ernest (Sirois) King, half way between Two Hills and Duvernay. He built a small house in which he still repairs watches and violins but has discontinued selling jewellery. Weekends are a busy time. The grandchildren love all the open spaces and freedom of the country, and the grandparents enjoy the sound of youthful laughter.

Here are their children:

Harvey — born February 28, 1941 at Vegreville, schooled at Two Hills, became a travelling salesman for various companies. He married Beatrice Plante from Edmonton and they are raising 4 children in Leduc.

Harold — born May 9, 1946, and died three months later.

Clarence — born May 9, 1946 at Two Hills, schooled in Two Hills, married Louise Dowley from Edmonton and they have one child. He is a long-distance operator for Edmonton "Grey Lines".

Jim — born September 20, 1947 at Two Hills, attended school there. He married Nellie Visser from Edmonton. They are raising 3 children in Edmonton where Jim is a salesman. As a hobby he repairs watches, having learned some of his father's skills.

Bernard — born August 11, 1951 in Two Hills and attended school there too. He has worked across Canada, finally choosing Toronto, Ontario, for the site of his present job.

FRED AND ZENOVIA POPOWICH

by Evelyn Popowich

FRED POPOWICH

Fred Popowich was born June 22, 1896, in Mamaestie, Austria, to Metro Popowich and his wife Domka (Lukeniuk). When their mother died suddenly, Fred was 7 years, his older brother Nick 17 years, his younger sister Maria 3 years. The children were brought up among relatives who were able to be responsible for their welfare. Fred was placed on his fathers' sisters care (Mary Taschuk). He had attended school 1 wk. before his mothers death, and that would be his "education".

As a child Fred earned his keep, as a 7 yr. old he herded sheep and when he grew a little, he herded cattle. At the age of 11 yrs. he was on his own. Totally independant, he began farm labour for Mr. Sherbatiuk and then George Lannyk. At 13 he accepted a contract to deliver in Chernovar, in the employ of the Towns Mayor. By 1912, Fred at 16, was well respected as an honest hard working lad. As a result the Mayor decided to spare the lads future. He informed Fred one day "I have some advice for you. I fear a great war is close at hand and, as a young man, you will be asked to defend your country. I would rather see you flee to Canada's freedom. I will personally endorse your passport to save you any question during your voyage." Fred saved his money and soon was off to Canada by way of Bremen, Holland. The ship had a stop over in Liverpool, England. Here all Austrian passports were confiscated and the people had to remain in England till the passports were carefully checked. Some Austrian Jews have been forging passports and the authorities were wise to this. While in Liverpool all Austrians were under surviliances. With no money, no English language and no work permits, the stay in Liverpool soon became a hungry hell! When a local policeman found Fred searching in refuse bins for food, he collared him and carted him off to the local precinct. Instead of the jail sentence Fred expected, he received a reprimand — enlightening him as to the personal health hazards of eating garbage. The policeman took Fred to a tackle shop, convinced the keeper to charge up a hook and line for Fred, wrote up a "fish vendors licence" for Fred and set him out to the river. At 10¢ a fish, Fred began to afford to eat LEGALLY! It took English authorities 3 months to receive the return mail from Austrian confirming the authenticity of Fred's passport. Fred was allowed to proceed to Canada. He arrived at St. Johns' in the spring of 1914, and took the train to Montreal. He dug ditches and then began work as a scrap iron gatherer at a CPR rail car factory. A forge workers accident left the job open to Fred and he was determined to be as good or better than his predecesor. His job was to heat 18" rivets in the forge. It was piece work at 2¢ each! Within two weeks Fred had become efficient to earn $12.00 a day — a fantastic sum for that time. He was stashing away some extra money by now.

Soon Freds father arrived to Canada, to fetch his son back home. Fred refused but bought a $80.00 voyage ticket back for his father. Within weeks War I hit full force!

All Austrian and German Immigrants in Canada were immediately suspected of espionage etc. They were fired from all jobs and kept under a parole type watch. Farming was the only recourse and west was as good a direction as any.

July of 1914 Fred boarded a train for Winnipeg — the ticket 1¢ a mile. The Immigrant Employment office sent him to Saskatoon as farm harvest help. Here Fred saw a sight he would never understand NOR forget! A religious sect, fleeing Russia had settled there and since they had NO oxen, they harnessed 20 of their women to a plow! "Never Underestimate The Power Of A Women"???

Fred saved his wages and after harvest headed for Calgary and then to Edmonton where there were friends and relatives. The city is no place for a young man if he's to hang on to his money so Fred soon headed out to Ellis. He searched for a homestead. Early Forts dictated that Glendon was too far north for home. So he went back to Edmonton and offered too "Relief Employment Office" a deal. For enough lumber to build a Boat, he agreed to employ 2 men for the summer $1 a day each. The govt. agreed. Fred and the 2 men built the boat and set out to pan gold. They made $3 a day — each working 10 hrs! One summer was enough to realize this wasn't a paying proposition. The men continued panning the next year but Fred had other plans. He searched for labour employment — manufacturing cement in Bigger Dyke. He learned to repair river ferries and did so on the Athabasca and Smokey Rivers. He dynamited rock one summer in Jasper. Then he began building river Ferris-Finnigan, Stewall and Trochu. He learned river flow speeds — currents etc. i.e. the North Sask. flows 15 mph at Drayton Valley, 5 mph at Edmonton and by Myrnam it slows to 3 mph. He piloted a river ferry, alone from Drayton Valley to Barrymon and on to Shandro for installation. He was a skilled swimmer, a brave man and had a good sense of water speed and shallows, all them qualities made him the ideal man to transfer ferries or to dislodge a run — away ferry.

Fred also worked as a Railroad Section man and applied for Canadian Citizenship. In 1918 he bought a farm in the Lac Bellevue area. He received a receipt for the car payment but land ownership was only allowed to Canadian Citizens. It was 1920 before the Citizenship was finalized and the land title issued. About this time, the war ended but it became impossible to contact relatives in the old country, Fred soon lost all contact. Some time later news arrived that Fred's brother Nick had died one year after serving in World War I, his sister Mary had married a Romanian lad. That is the last he has heard from them.

Fred became a farmer and a farmer needs a wife. A young lady was growing up around Lake Eliza and Fred would soon meet Zenovia Skakun. In 1924 they were married in a St. Paul home which served as a Roman Catholic Church. For wedding gifts they received 3 live hens, 1 pillow, and $25. The cash paid for the musicians. Those honeymoon years were spent in a make-shift hut, mud plastered interior and exterior. The "Monsoons" of the month of June soaked the roof through and one

morning at breakfast a large piece of mud let loose and smashed onto the table narrowly mising them both! That was truly roughing it.

Eventually they bought 6 head of cattle and began farming. Fred blasted stumps and cleared land. Because of the hard times, Fred hunted, trapped and fished. One early spring, while on a hunting trip, he broke through the ice. He swam 150 yards under the ice before he found thin enough ice to break in order to reach the surface. He was able to pull himself to the surface but was unhappy, he had not been able to hang on to his $85 rifle in the mishap. Later he sealed a jar containing a lit flashlight which he lowered into the hole in search of the gun, but never did find it. Still many years later, while working on a bridge building crew Fred's swimming saved another man's life. Mr. Rossi fell from the bridge into the Battle River. Fred dived in behind him and rescued him.

Another life was saved one day. As Fred and Zenovia were checking their stock they heard a child's cry across the river. Fred boated across and learned that a handicapped lad had wandered away from the family. Together with the family Fred began the search and found him crouched among the roots of a large fallen tree, cold, hungry and terrified.

Fred and Zenovia raised their family of six in several residences. Fred had suffered many hardships because of lack of education, so when his children were of age he initiated the building of a school on CPR land 3 miles north of their farm. Horses were the children's means of transport to school. Their teacher was Metro Nicholaychuk. Because there was 21 years between the birth dates of their first son and the last they have a fairly "spread out" family.

As the family grew up the older ones decided they wanted a "family business venture" besides the farm. Fred was already the ferryman for the Myrnam Crossing so he bought a St. Paul cafe and a rooming house, and sent the boys off to run it. When the boys were old enough to branch out on their own the cafe and rooming house was sold and each who had worked there had received valuable experience in business management and public service. The family had also bought a Willingdon Bakery and Confectionery. During this time Fred farmed and took contracts to build Willingdon sidewalks, he was a fire chief and the local town policeman.

After retiring from the farm Fred and Zenovia both worked ferry crews and then retired in Willingdon.

These are Their Children:

MIKE — Born March 21/1922

Married Mary Skawronski (Lafond). They farmed along the river west of the Myrnam bridge, later moved near Lac Bellevue, and are now retired on a farm.

NICK — Born Feb. 14/1924

Joined the Canadian Armed Forces and cooked for our Northern DEW LINE and became a Master chef. He married Marjorie Jennex of Halifax, raised 5 children was a master chef on a USA luxury liner. He now is a real estate dealer in Charlottown, Florida.

CASEY — Born Nov. 28/1928

Served with the Canadian Army, married Agnes Kaminsky of Edmonton. They raised 4 daughters where he is in "Mens Wear Sales".

PETER — Born June 5/1931

Married Doris Paradis of Ashmont, worked at the Chlor-Alkali Plant, raised 4 children, and now has an Insurance and Real Estate business in Two Hills.

LILY — Born Oct. 28/1934

Became a practical nurse, married Trifon Rosychuk, raising 4 children on a Brosseau-Lac Sante farm. Lilly works as a nursing assistant at the Two Hills Hospital and Nursing Home.

ALEX — January 18/1943.

Worked at Duvernay Chlor-Alkali Plant, married Evelyn Fedoruk (Sidor's daughter) worked 5 years in Rocky Mountain House (sour gas industry) have two sons and reside on a Lac Sante farm. Is presently employed at Dome's Saddle Lake Gas Plant.

Fred and Zenovia Popowich.

ZENOVIA SKAKUN

by Evelyn Popowich

In Chernovatz, 1894, Kost Skakun (Onufreys' son) and Martha Kupchenko (Yakems' daughter) were married. They had two children Helen born in 1895 and Mike born in 1897. Fourteen months later the mother, Martha died. Later Paraska Dochuk became Kost's second bride. To them a son Kassian was born about 1900, and a daughter Zenovia in 1905.

In 1909 the family boarded a ship to Treste, Italy and headed to Argentina for a second chance at a better life. They bought 12 hectares (30 acres) of rich cultivated land on an island that belonged to the Argentinian Province of Entre Rios. The climate was superb, the gardens and fields lush, but 5 years of grasshoppers was enough! These insects ate everything but the meats on the animals and the family. The family decided to try their luck in a cooler climate.

Fred Popowich and Zenovia Skakun's wedding day. February 2, 1919.

In 1914 they set sail from Buenos Aires and Alex and Lillian (the 2 family additions). They were thankful that they had learned Spanish and could speak fluently. Today they still recall much of their Spanish.

They arrived in Halifax in their journey and now headed south and west, eventually making their way to Mundare, Alberta where Paraska' uncle Mike Lakusta farmed. Kost's family of 8 remained there two years until 1916 before taking a homestead at Lake Eliza. Their eldest son Mike was now 18 years of age so he took an adjacent homestead. Here the family remained till 1933. Kost Skakun and family moved to farm in the Pruth (Willingdon) area. In 1938 Kost died. The children left home one by one. In 1956 Paraska Skakun at 79 met and married Kost Fenial a local widower. Paraska died at the age of 89 years.

KOST SKAKUN CHILDREN

Martha's children:

HELEN — Born 1895. In 1909 with her parents she went to Argentina. She remained in Argentina and married. She became a widow and raised a daughter and resides in Buenos Aires.

METRO — Born 1897. In 1909 with his parents he went to Argentina, then in 1914 immigrated to Canada with the family. He took a homestead at Lake Eliza. Married Nellie Stetsko (Mike & Eustena's daughter) farmed and raised 5 children. In 1959 he moved to St. Paul, and did custom carpentry until retirement.

KASSIAN — Born 1900. Came to Canada in 1914 with the family and homesteaded, and married Racheal Kalancha and raised 3 children. He moved to Edmonton in 1931 as a remodelling carpenter. He died in Oct. 1979.

ZENOVIA — Born Sept. 1905. Came to Canada with her parents from Argentina in 1914, she met, then married Fred Popowich Feb. 2, 1924. They farmed, etc, and raised 6 children. They now reside in the Willingdon Senior Citizens Lodge.

ALEXANDER — Born 1913 in Argentina. Came to Canada in 1914, was a local musician, joined the Armed Forces and cooked for men in front line in WWII in Germany. He became a Head Chef was employed at the Regency Hotel in Edmonton when he became ill and died in April 197-.

LILLIAN — Born 1916 in Canada. Married Timofy Hills' son George. They raised 3 children and still farm in Willingdon (Pruth area).

SYLVESTOR — Born Dec. 1918. Married Mary Grovel of Bellis. They raised 3 sons. They reside in Edmonton and he is employed at Swifts.

ALEX AND EVELYN POPOWICH

by Evelyn Popowich

Alex was born January 18, 1943 to Fred Popowich and his wife Zenovia (Skakun). In the Willingdon Hospital. He spent his school years in St. Paul and Willingdon. He worked 9 years at the chloralhali plant at Duvernay. This is where he met and married Evelyn Fedoriuk.

Evelyn was born June 7, 1943 - the surviving twin of a home birth to Mr. Sidor Fedoriuk (Brosseau) and his wife Jennie (Wanckulak of Downing). She went to school in Two Hills and graduated and became a Medical Lab and X-ray Technician. She was employed in Willingdon when she met Alex — a local lad. Alex and Evelyn were married June 6, 1964 and moved to Two Hills, where Evelyn would spend 6 years as the Local Hospitals' Technician. Alex was taking an apprenticeship in instrumentation at Duvernay and they decided he needed more work experience. They moved to Rocky Mountain House where Alex worked at the Gulf Strachan Plant. He gained his Instrument ticket, his 4th class Steam ticket and 2 sons!!! Mick — born June 5, 1974, Andy — June 4, 1976. Andy was 2 weeks old when the family moved back to "Home Country". They were in Lafond 2 years before moving to Alex Logozars "Home Place" on the Lac Sante Road. Alex is employed with Dome Petroleum at their Saddle Lake Gas Plant.

MR. AND MRS. ALPHONSE GALLANT

by Carmen Nichols

Mr. Alphonse Gallant arrived in Brosseau July 1st, 1911. He came from Abraham Village, P.E.I. and was a graduate in education from the University of Charlottetown in P.E.I.

For seven years Mr. Gallant taught at the St. Laurent School in Brosseau.

In 1912 he married Helene Despins (daughter of Catherine and Napoleon Despins).

Mr. and Mrs. Gallant lived on their farm for 2½ years. Mr. Gallant would teach during the day and when school was out he would work on the farm. They then moved into the hamlet of Brosseau and lived in a house owned by Mr. J.B. Vincent.

Three of their children were born in Brosseau, Catherine who died at the age of 10 months, Rudolph and Evangeline.

Mrs. Gallant remembers that when she was a young girl, that once a month the parish priest would go to Beauvallon to say Mass and there would be no church service in Brosseau on that Sunday.

On those Sundays, when the weather was nice, many families would go to Big Fish Lake for a picnic at Tourville Beach.

Frederick Lavallee was a neighbor of the Despins and he would come by in his big wagon to pick them up to go to the lake. On their way there, Mrs. Despins would read the Mass and they would say the rosary. After they had prayed, they would sing and Mr. Lavallee would play the fiddle.

After all the families had arrived at the lake, everyone would gather by the shore and prayed asking God to protect them.

The men could rent boats for 10¢ a day to go fishing.

The women and children would go swimming.

Mr. Tourville, who owned property by the lake, had built a stove out of rocks and made tables and benches for everybody to use.

There was always lots of food to share with friends and neighbors. There would be singing, music and games. The children had a wonderful time playing in the water. What a beautiful way to spend a day.

LOUIS NAPOLEON DESPINS

by Carmen Nichols

During the first week of April 1906 Louis Napoleon Despins, his wife Catherine and their six children, Albina, Helene, Adoniase, Adrienne, Eva and Lucienne arrived at Duvernay. Mr. Despins was manager of the Lambert Hotel there till November of that year.

They then moved to a homestead in Brosseau.

Three children were born in Brosseau, Réné, Prospère and Laurette.

ARTHUR GAMACHE SR.

by Leon Gamache

Our ancestor was born in St. Illiers, France in 1619. Nicolas Gamache decided to come to Nouvelle France in 1652. There was at that time a company named "La Compagnie des Cents Associers" (Company of Hundred Associates). They were responsible for organizing the colonization of the new country. He came with one brother and one sister. They landed at L'Islet in the new province of Quebec. His brother never married but the sister had married in 1625 a Mr. Fortin in France.

In 1672 he was given a tract of 42 acres of land for a service he had rendered the Governor Talon. In 1672 he married Elizabeth Cloutier. They had three children: Louis born in 1678, Jean-Baptiste born in 1682 and Pierre in 1689. Mr. and Mrs. Nicolas Gamache died in 1699. They were both buried in the chapel they had built for the settlers there.

Pierre, the youngest son, is our direct line of the family tree. I have no record of the other two. He was the first of our line to be born in Canada.

I will now go to the seventh generation, our grandfather. He was born in St. Modeste, Quebec in 1830. He married, in 1856, Claire Chamberland. They had seven children, of which my father was the youngest. He was born in 1871 in St. Modest, Quebec. In January 1893 he married Marie Charron in Isle Verte, Quebec. They stayed on a farm given to them by my grandfather. They lived there until the spring of 1906. They then had a family of ten: Pierre born November 10, 1893; Alfred January 7, 1895; Arthur May 16, 1896; Anna December 18, 1898; Alida February 26, 1899; Daniel July 27, 1900; Charles June 10, 1902; Camille June 15, 1903; Fortunat October 21, 1904; Joseph March 11, 1906.

Napoleon and Catherine Despin, next their daughter Albina, with her husband Mr. Lachapelle, Helen with Alphonse Gallant, Eva and Louis Theroux, Lucienne and Arthur Gamache, Adrienne and Mr. Lecompte, Rene, Prosper and Laurette who married Albert Doucet.

The Arthur Gamache Sr. family taken in May 1925, on the occasion of Rev. Charles Gamache's ordination to the priesthood. Back row — Right to left: Leda, Joseph, Fortunat, Camille, Daniel, Arthur Jr., Alfred and Leon. Front row: Anna, Sister Alida S.G.M., Mrs. Marie (Charron) Gamache, Father Charles, Mr. Arthur Gamache Sr., Pierre.

The farm was too small to keep the family together so they decided to move. They came to Menard, Manitoba, 40 miles from Winnipeg. They had sold their farm in Quebec to buy a bigger one in Menard. They lived there 5 years. My brother Gerard was born July 31, 1907 and my sister Leda in March 1909.

The oldest boys in the family were growing old enough to go farming on their own but the land around there was too expensive. My mother had two brothers in St. Paul, Alberta. They wrote and told my parents there were homesteads to be had for $10.00 a quarter. My father came to look at the country and found it to his liking so, he went back, sold his farm in Menard and moved to St. Paul. He had kept his stock and machinery. They had two box-cars full. When they got to Vegreville, they unloaded the horses, a buggy and a democrat, hitched the horses to them and drove to St. Paul. My dad first bought a piece of land, 80 acres, one mile west of the town, to have a place to stay while he looked for a good place to really settle down. They then moved the rest of the stock and machinery to St. Paul.

My father found a nice half section in Brosseau. SE¼ 34-56-12 W4 belonging to Mr. Claude Fournel who had just lost his young wife and wanted to leave. NW¼ 34-56-12 W4 belonged to Mr. Jules Genon who did not want to stay either if his partner left. He was very lucky to be able to buy that land for all the land around was taken up by homesteaders. My parents moved to Brosseau in the fall of 1911, after my birth on September 20, 1911. That same fall my father and three oldest brothers went to Bonnyville and filed on four quarters in the Fort Kent district.

Being the youngest of the family I do not remember the breaking of the land, or the log shack or all the hard times of settling down. I do remember the new house was built, the new barn and the land was all broken but about twenty acres that were kept for pasture.

My two oldest brothers never stayed in Brosseau, other than coming for visits. They married in Bonnyville and raised their families. My brother, Arthur sold his homestead and bought the farm from August Ouellette, N½ 28-56-12 W4 and stayed in Brosseau until 1925 when he moved to St. Paul. My sister, Anna, married and moved to Camrose, Alberta, and to Gravelburg, Saskatchewan. My sister, Alida, went to school in the local school of Champlain with my brothers for a while and then went to convent in Montreal and became a Grey nun. My brothers, Daniel and Charles went to college in Edmonton. Daniel then became a school teacher and Charles was ordained priest in 1925.

The brother who stayed the longest at home was Camille. He bought the farm that my brother, Arthur had and stayed there until 1935 when he moved to Duvernay to E½ 26-55-12 W4.

My father's land, being located near an open Indian reservation and also other vacant land, was an ideal place to raise cattle. By what I remember he already had about one hundred head of cattle and 30 horses. He had a Model T Ford. He also kept some hogs and milking cows so that we all had our share of work to do.

In the summer, at berry picking time our cousins would come from St. Paul to visit and pick berries. We had a great time in the evenings playing all kinds of games. There was also the annual picnic which was quite

an occasion. With all the cattle and horses my father had we had quite a stampede every fall and spring. I enjoyed watching my dad and brothers breaking the horses to saddle and to harness.

My brother, Fortunat, went to college in 1924 and then to Ledbret, Saskatchewan where he became a priest. My brothers Joseph and Gerard stayed home until my father left the farm. My father bought them each a farm in Bonnyville where they married and raised their families. My sister moved to St. Paul with my parents where she married later and stayed there a few years before moving to Edmonton.

I left home in 1926 to go to college in Edmonton. During the holiday I used to drive my parents to visit my brothers and sisters. My father died in January 1929, at the age of 58. I then came to stay with my mother in St. Paul, until 1933, when I returned to Brosseau to take over my mother's farm which she had not sold. She went to stay with my sister, Leda, who was living on a farm just out of St. Paul, and stayed there until her death in 1937, at the age of 67.

With the help of my brother, Camille, I put in my first crop. In the fall of 1933 I married Yvonne Adam of St. Vincent, Alberta. The first years we were married was still during the depression so they were a little hard. We both worked hard and we succeeded well enough. It is on this farm that we had our first three children: Guy in November 1934; Mariette in 1937 and Charles in 1940. The years we spent on this farm were good ones; we had good neighbors and made good friends.

The problem of schools made us decide to move to St. Paul in 1943. Anna was born in St. Paul in 1943 and then Jocelyn in 1946.

The first job I took was for the Municipal District of St. Paul. I got this work from Eugene Foisy who was councillor for the Brosseau district. I worked there for 5 years until I sold my farm to Mike Mack who had been renting it. In the spring of 1949, I bought a Caterpillar tractor and a big plow and started breaking land in the surrounding district. There was a lot of land to break so I got another Caterpillar to plow next spring. For the next three years I broke twelve hundred acres a year. In the summer of 1952 the weather was very dry and the farmers had no money so I sold everything and went back to work for the municipality. I worked building roads in the summer, plowing snow or working in the shop in the winter.

My family was growing up and I wanted to spend more time with them so I decided to work in town. I got a job as mechanic in a garage. I worked there until the boys wanted a filling station. We got together in August, 1959, and built a garage in the east end of town, by ourselves, with the backing of the White Rose Gas Company. We opened for business in December 1959 and did very well there. We had to work long hours as we sold a lot of gas and we had more work that we could do. We stayed there until December 1966.

Both boys are now working for the City of Edmonton as mechanics. I stayed in St. Paul working at Various places until I retired three years ago — 1976, to enjoy myself doing things I prefer in the company of Yvonne, my wife.

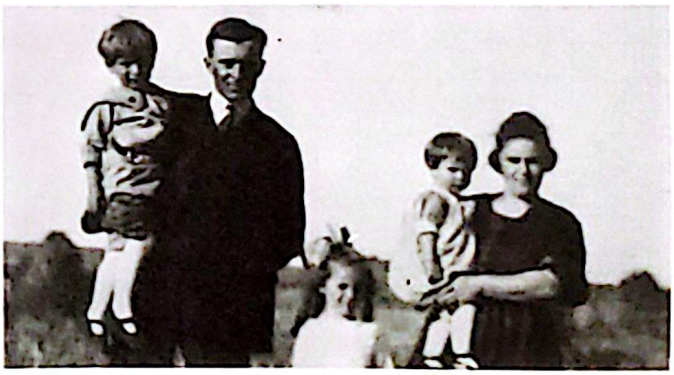
From left to right: Guy, Mariette, Charles, Anna, Jocilyn, Yvonne and Leon Gamache.

ARTHUR GAMACHE JR.

by Didier Madeleinne Gamache

Arthur Gamache was born in St. Modeste, Quebec, May, 1896, son of Arthur Gamache and Marie Charron.

Lucienne Despins was born in Grand Falls N.B. July 1899.



In Brosseau in 1923 or 1924 from right — Lucienne, Francoise, Bertha Arthur and Raymond.

Arthur left St. Modeste in 1906 with his parents and family, heading West. After many days of travelling on the C.N.R., they arrived in Manitoba to settle in Menard.

In 1911, the family answered the call from Alberta for settlers. They loaded their few pieces of furniture, small stock and machinery on the C.N.R. and on to Vegreville. There they unloaded, hitched the horses to their wagon and buggy. They loaded furniture, machinery and family and on to St. Paul for a few months until the youngest brother was born in September. So it was in 1911 that the family was all settled in Brosseau.

Wedding supper in 1918 when Arthur Gamache married Lucienne Despins.

It was a life of hard work and some years of hard times, especially during the depression, due to crop failures, hail, droughts, etc. Yet happiness and contentment was present. We always shared joys and sorrows: a family life full of love.

All was not hard work; we enjoyed picnics, berry picking, ball games, and evenings spent playing cards or other games; also sitting there together while Mother read "Les Bonnes Histoires".

The most enjoyable times of all were during the Christmas and New Year season. All the families — uncles, aunts, cousins — would get together. There were two or three settings for a meal; then after washing the dishes, out came the fiddles, mouth-organs, Jew's harps and the "spoons". What an evening of enjoyment, singing and dancing!

In 1916, Arthur Jr. purchased ¾ section of land from August Ouellette; good soil and beautiful scenery of the Saskatchewan River running along some of his land.

Arthur married Lucienne Despins (who had arrived in Brosseau in 1906 with her family). They were married in the St. Laurent Church on January 7, 1918. Their first child was born at home on the 11th October 1919 — a girl.

Berthe — joined the Sisters of Charity of Montreal 1934.

Raymond — born January 1920, deceased July 1939.

Francoise — born January 1922, joined Sisters of Charity of Montreal 1943.

Didier — born May 1924, 7 children and 1 grand-child

In the spring of 1925 the family moved to St. Paul, on a farm 5 miles west of town.

Lucien — was born May 1927, 7 children and 8 grand children, deceased January 1979.

Pauline — born March 1930, 4 children.

Andre — born April 1932, 2 children.

Gilles — born September 1937, 1 child

June 24, 1920; In the car: Arthur, Beatrice Fez, Pierre Gamache; In front — Lucienne Gamache, Maria-Anna Charron, Jeanne Charron, Fex, Mme. Philias Jean, Yvonne Charron.

Today Arthur and Lucienne look back with fond memories on their years spent in Brosseau (wishing at times they had never left). They are contented in their own home; enjoying their family, their 21 grand-children and 8 great grand-children.

Arthur Gamache family; left to right - back row - Gilles, Didier, Pauline, Andre; front row - Sr, Berthe, s.g.m., Lucienne and Arthur Gamache, Sr. Francoise, s.g.m. missing Raymond died 1939.

CAMILLE AND IDA GAMACHE

by Roland Gamache

I am ROLAND GAMACHE, the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Camille Gamache, and I would like to write a few things about our years spent in Brosseau and Duvernay.

My grandfather and grandmother, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Gamache, moved to Brosseau approximately in the year 1912. In 1926, Dad (Camille Gamache) married Ida Roberge, who lived in the Beauvallon district. They made their home in Brosseau.

They had four children, and here are some details about them.

ROLAND — married LENA LABONTE from Morinville, and they had five children. They are now residing in Fort Saskatchewan.

ADRIEN — married DENISE NORMANDEAU from Lamoureux, Alberta. They have six children. They make their home in St. Albert.

YVONNE — married ANDRÉ ROULEAU, and they have three children. They reside in Edmonton.

FLORENCE — married DON MacDONALD and they have five children. They made their home in Edmonton.

We lived in Brosseau for approximately nine years, after which Mom and Dad decided that they should move closer to a school. Dad then bought a half section one mile north and ½ mile east of Duvernay. This meant a lot of extra work for the family because the farm buildings consisted of a small sod roof barn, and a two room house. Dad had to break a lot of land and build a new house, barns, granaries, etc.

In those days there were no school buses, so when we finished our grade eight in the Duvernay school, Mom and Dad had to send us boys to St. John's college in Edmonton, and my sisters to the convent in Vegreville.

In 1944 Dad and Mom sold their farm in Duvernay and bought a farm six miles north of St. Albert. They felt that being closer to Edmonton would make it easier for their children to get jobs.

Brosseau and Duvernay brings back many memories, such as going to school in the winter time with a horse and caboose. In those days sleighing was practically the only mode of transportation in the winter, as the snow plows never opened any side roads. We used to enjoy the family picnics in Brosseau, and the Catechism classes at the church during the summer. The price of gold nowadays reminds me of when the river was the attraction of many gold miners in those days.

When Mom and Dad were married they used a ferry for crossing the river instead of a bridge. Dad told us of the chances people took in crossing the river on the ice, just before spring break-up.

Dad used to be a cowboy in his younger days, so he used to like going to the rodeo, held during the summer, at the Saddle Lake Reserve.

Harvest time used to be a great excitement for us kids, when the threshing crews would arrive and stay for three or four days.

Brosseau and Duvernay will always have a spot in our hearts, for it was where we were born and raised and had the opportunity to meet many fine people. I hope that this book will get us in contact again with our school friends, and our neighbours.

MARTHA LAKUSTA — PETER GALGANETZ

Peter was born October 28, 1908 in Bukovina, Austria — a Romanian subject. He attended school in Austria from 1910-1915. Then World War I was being fought so he had to end his schooling. He worked on his father's farm until 1924. At that time Peter took off for new frontiers, sailing from Hamburg, Germany, to Halifax, Canada, a journey of 13 days, arriving on June 4, 1924. On to Winnipeg he went, stopping at the Immigration House for 24 hours; then westward to Vegreville. From there he went to Shypenitz, and worked for Bill Arychuk (2 weeks) and for Dan Kureluk (3 weeks).

Adam Werenka, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Galanetz and the children admiring the abundant crop of vegetables in 1942.

Peter's brother, Alex, was mining in Drumheller, Alberta. He sent Pete a train ticket to come to work with him, at Nacmine Coal Mines, 4 miles west of Drumheller. Peter stayed there loading coal, by hand, in rail-cars, and then ran electric cutting machines until 1938 when he married.

Martha Lakusta Kupchenko (a widow with two children, Walter, aged 7, and Jennie, 5) in Edmonton and moved to Duvernay on NE¼ 23-55-12-W4th. She was born January 5, 1905 in Hairy Hill, Alberta, daughter of Gawrylo and Mary Lakusta. She attended school in Hairy

Hill from 1912-1916, finishing Grade 4. Before walking the three miles to school in the morning, she would help milk 17 cows and do other chores.

After finishing school, Martha worked on the road construction driving 2 horses on a fresno. On the farm she picked stones and roots; she drove 3 horses on a seed-drill and walked bare-foot behind the harrows; she stooked; she pitched bundles to the men who would cut the twine before feeding the threshing machines. She also hauled wheat, 25 miles, to Vegreville in wintertime. It was so cold that long icicles formed on the horses' noses. To keep warm Martha had to walk behind the load.

Martha recalls going to Vegreville with her father, Gawrylo Lakusta, with oxen. When the flies were bad, the oxen would take off, with the wagon, into the sloughs. Martha was so frightened but her father would say, "Don't cry, Martha. When they have had a rest we will go on." And they did!

On February, 1938, Peter and Martha were married. He worked on the farm during the summer and in the mines, in Drumheller, in winter to supplement his income. In the winter of 1941 he took Martha with him while her brother, Philip, looked after the farm. On June 14, 1939 their daughter, Mary, was born at home in Duvernay with Peter acting as midwife. Their son, Bill, was born in the Royal Alex Hospital in Edmonton March 15, 1943.

Peter was active in community affairs, serving on the board of directors of the Farmers' Union of Alberta during the forties. He was chairman of the Duvernay School District for approximately 15 years. He was also director of a Bull Club. These bulls were loaned to farmers, by the provincial government, to upgrade their cattle.

Peter, Martha and their son, Bill, farmed all these years on the same farms, retiring November 10, 1979, when they purchased a house in Two Hills where they hope to enjoy many more years, watching their 6 grandchildren grow.

The step-son, Walter Kupchenko, married Lynn Buchanan in 1965, in Edmonton and has 2 children, Darrel (14) and David (12). He is residing in Edmonton and has been a driver for the Edmonton Transit System for 24 years. The daughter, Mary, married Steve Krywiak. They have four children, Larry (22 years old), Debbie (21), Allen (15) and Brian (13).

MARC GIRARD
A PIONEER IN BROSSEAU

Mr. Marc Girard was born in St. Paul-du-Nord, Quebec. His father, Abel Girard, and mother, Marie-Louise Harvey, moved to Sudbury, Ontario. Soon after, when young Marc was only ten years old, he started to work in the mines. He was intelligent and alert even at this young age. Unfortunately, the family needs took precedence over education.

In 1894, Marc met a fine young lady, Valéda Ruel, whose family had come to Sudbury from Stanstead, a small town near Sherbrooke in the Eastern Townships of Quebec. Although Valéda was only fifteen years old, she was already a very mature young lady. They were married in Worthington a short time later. Their eldest son, Arthur, and their daughter, Rose-de-Lima, both died a few months apart at the age of three, and one and one-half years respectively. These children were buried in Whitefish, Ontario. Marc and Valéda waited for almost two years before Wilfrid was born. He was eighteen months old when the young family moved to Brosseau in 1904, already preceded in 1903 by his father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Abel Girard, two sisters Séverine and Claudia and their husbands Arthur Drolet and Pitt Flamand.

Marc and Valéda with their eighteen month old son Wilfrid when they arrived in Brosseau in 1904.

Marc and Valéda Girard took a homestead two and one-half miles West of the village of Brosseau. His father and mother took up residence with them. They worked in partnership and the homestead soon became a prosperous farm. Grandmother suddenly became blind in 1905 and remained with the family until her death in 1923. Grandfather Abel was a very quiet but active member of the household. Unfortunately, a stable enclosing a good number of valuable horses burned down during an electric storm in 1919. This sad event took a toll on his health and he gradually grew more feeble and disinterested in the operation of the farm. He died in the fall of 1920. Both grandparents are buried in the cemetery at Brosseau where a tombstone to their memory still stands.

The family grew up, and during the period from 1904 to 1922 eight more children were born: seven at the farm in Brosseau and Hélène in the Vegreville hospital. Marc and Valéda were loving and devoted parents throughout their lives, and although they had been deprived of a higher education themselves, they insisted that their children not be deprived in a similar manner. The older children were fortunate to have only one half mile to walk

A flock of ducks with the younger children of the Girard family.

to school and it was relatively easy to take advantage of a bilingual elementary education. However, the teachers were frequently changed and this did not have a favorable influence on the older children's desire to pursue a high school education.

In 1923, due to a series of unforeseen circumstances, the farm had to be sold and the family moved temporarily to Lafond and then to St. Paul. The younger ones, with the exception of Emile and Hélène, attended school there, and it was at this time that Wilfrid, Alfred, and Emile went to work on their own.

In January 1924, Marc and Valéda decided to take up residence in Calder with the six younger children: Délia, Zéphirin, Osilda, Léonel, Emilie, and Héléne. Marc immediately sought employment with the Alberta Northern Railways and remained with the company until his retirement in 1941. The children attended school in Calder.

Mr. and Mrs. Marc Girard, Dilia, Joseph Gagne, Alfred, Emile, Wilfred. Front left to right Helene, Rosilda, Ziphirin, Emilie and Leonel. Dilia and Joseph's wedding day in 1925.

It seems fitting to stop here for a brief overview of the entire family:

Wilfrid (1903-1963): married Irma Morin, 3 children; a welder.

Alfred (1906-1969): married Katerine Holko, 1 son; a mechanic.

Emile (1908-1975): married Alma Gagné, 10 children; a farmer.

Délia (1910- :married Joseph Gagné, 4 children; still resides in Calder.

Zéphirin (1912-1960): married Madeleine Lafrance, 2 sons, a janitor.

Rosilda (1913- :entered the religious order of Les Soeurs de l'Assomption de la Sainte-Vierge in 1930. Retired after 40 years of teaching in June 1979. Still active in her community in St. Paul.

Léonel (1915- : married Palmina Auger, 6 children; a farmer and a butcher in Eaglesham, Alberta.

Emile (1916- : entered the same religious order as Rosilda in 1939. Still in active service at the Provincial House in Edmonton.

Hélène (1922- : a teacher and a member of the same religious order as Rosilda and Emilie from 1941-1966; now an instructor at the Alberta Vocational School since 1967.

Mr. and Mrs. Marc Girard and their daughters.

In St. Edmund's Parish, at Calder, Mrs. Valéda Girard continued to be a devoted, loving mother and an outstanding and active member of the Church organization, the "Ladies of St. Anne". Fluently bilingual, she served on various committees and was president until her untimely death at the early age of 57. She was respected and loved by all who knew her. She always had extra time to help where help was needed. Her funeral cortège on August 24, 1939, was ample proof of the tribute that was paid to her.

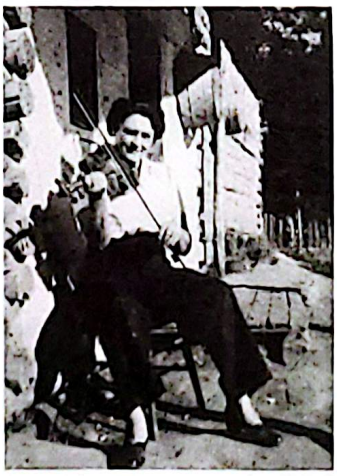
His life shattered by Valéda's death, Marc decided to close his house. Hélène, the only one left at home, went to a boarding school in Battleford, Sask., to continue her high school; he resided with Délia and her family until his

Zephirin, Rosilda, Lionel and Emilie Girard at Tourville beach on the west side of Lac Sante in 1920.

retirement in 1942. He then spent some time in Vancouver working in the shipyards, and finally took a job for one year as night-watchman at the Onion Lake Indian Residential School where Héléne was now teaching.

During his frequent visits to Rosilda who was teaching in Delmas, Sask., he met a very fine widow, Mrs. Diana Audette. They married in August, 1946. Again these two families became very close and Marc Girard's qualities of love and of unselfish devotion were as usual outstanding. When he died suddenly in June, 1950, the tributes from his second wife, Diana, and from these two families and many friends testified to the worthiness of the man who remained faithful to his deep Christian values until the end.

Families may come and go; lengthy or short eulogies can be written; but what remains in our hearts is a firm conviction that our parents, Marc and Valéda Girard, left us a dowry not counted in dollars and cents — a dowry of loving memories — memories of hard work, of devotion



Delia as our left hand violin player.

and service, of mutual respect and esteem not only for the members of our family but also for our neighbours, and especially for God. Our values were clearly and deeply etched not so much by our parents' admonitions but by their integrity, and by their own honest and true Christian lives.

We love to drive back to Brosseau to proudly pray near our grandparents' tombstones and to breathe a sigh of heartfelt gratitude to those pioneers who gave us not only our start in life, but also Christian example and ideals, stars to look up to in the future.

ADAM AND HELEN GONGOS AND THEIR SON, NICK

by Nick Gongos

From Arad, in the South of Romania, Adam and Helen Gongos arrived in the United States in the year 1907. It was the cheapest place to get to, from Europe. From New York, where they supported themselves by building and painting, they worked their way across the eastern states, Ohio, Indiana and Minnesota to Dysart, Saskatchewan where my grandfather, coming across from the old country, met them.

In 1911 they landed in Vegreville, bought a team of oxen and headed north where they finally took up homesteads two miles east of what is now Bellis. Of their ten children, born wherever their travels found them, I was the first to be born in Alberta. It was a good area to settle, plenty of wide open country, hay and water for horses and cattle. But there was a stillness about it, a feeling of isolation.

This was quite some time before the railroad was in, as I remember it being built through my Dad's homestead, and I could never understand why the horses they used to build the grade had such long ears. They were mules.

About this time several big Russians homesteaded in the area and worked on the railroad grade hauling dirt with wheelbarrows. To quote the late Mileon Swarsawski of the Brosseau district who was on the wheelbarrow crew, "You dam right, we got paid by the yard!"

The coming of the trains changed things so much, it seemed that at last we had contact with the outside world. Before, the closest town was Vegreville. It wasn't that we went any place, it was just knowing that the train went to Edmonton one day and we could expect it back the next. I'll always have a good feeling about trains, since they were the first thing to break the dull, daily monotony. We looked forward to them and, to this day, I always stop whatever I'm doing to watch a train go by.

The ticket which took my grandfather back to Romania in July, 1922, from Bellis to Halifax by train and across to Hamburg, Germany, was one hundred eight-seven dollars and fifty cents!

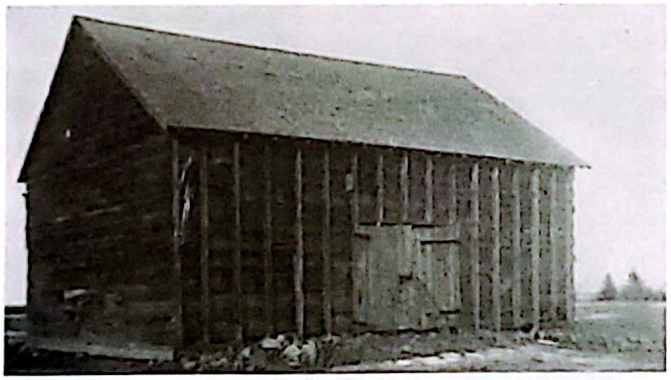
My own life found me picking up what schooling I could in Bellis, Hairy Hill, Athabasca and Wasel. It wasn't easy. Often there simply weren't enough warm clothes to wear and even boots had to be snatched from one of the other kids in the family so I could go out to play. Once I was outside they wouldn't chase me when there was snow on the ground.

In 1935 I settled on a farm north of the river, NE 15-56-12 and SE 22-56-12 W4. Back then, before

Gongos homestead home built 1914 and still standing. Nick was born there. His daughter, Donna, is standing in front of it.

highway 36 came along, just 3½ miles north of Duvernay bridge, people traveled on what was known as Crooked Hill Road. It was quite something! No gravel then and that winding road gave no end of trouble for years when it rained etc. Many is the night I had to go out at any hour and hook a team onto a car and help them up this hill.

At the bottom was a couple of acres of good grass and trees where people camped, as we had the only well between Saddle Lake and Duvernay bridge. It was quite a thing years ago to see dozens of hayracks going south for harvest. It reminded me of the cranes going south for the winter.



An old landmark built by a schoolteacher, Francois Courtemanche — 1923. SE 23-56-12 W4.

These racks were mostly from Saddle Lake Reserve, a few coming from farther north. Late fall you would see them travelling home again, sometimes when there was snow on the ground. They had their tents set up in the racks with a wood heater to keep their families warm.

My own life has been varied and interesting. I've stooked in cold, drizzling rain for a dollar a day and drove a caboose (a covered, horse-drawn sleigh with a heater in it) for a fur buyer back in 1937 when, because of the coronation in England, furs took a leap in price you wouldn't believe. Coyote skins, for instance, jumped from an average of $3.00 to $20.00.

I am very thankful about my parents coming to Canada. They sacrificed so much to give us a better

Two Henry Coutu boys, Ronnie Didier, and Paricia Gongos at a Brosseau ball practice in 1944.

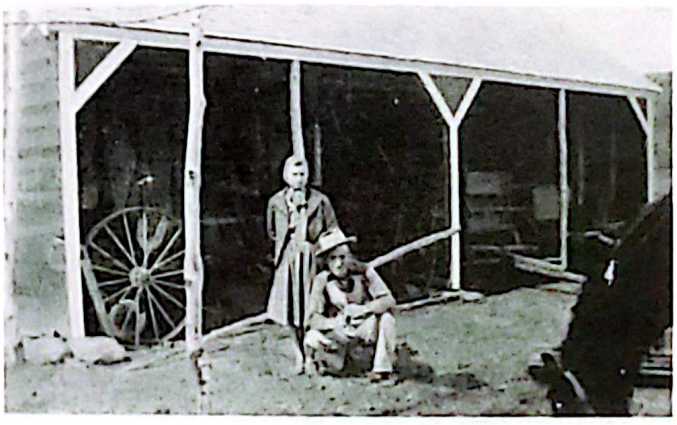
chance than they ever had. In turn, some of their grandchildren today are in every profession in the country. I know that they, as myself, are ever thankful.

Nick and Elsie Gongos were married in July, 1940. They farmed in the Brosseau district for 43 years.

Elsie was born at Sheho, Saskatchewan, in 1921, and came to Brosseau with her parents, John and Mary Boyko.

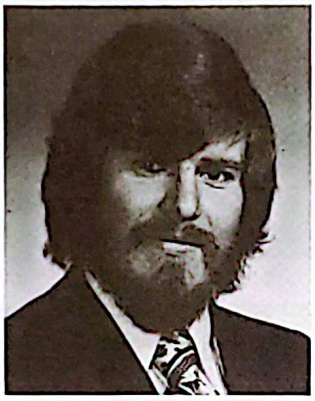
Six children were born to Elsie and Nick, 5 girls and 1 boy. All the children attended school in Two Hills.

Patricia graduated from Two Hills High School and attended the University of Alberta. She married Edward Babiuk from Two Hills and they moved to St. Albert, Alberta. They have two daughters: Christie and Cindy.



Elsie and Nick Gongos on the farm.

Back row L. to R. Patricia and Donna, Sally, Peggy and Colleen Gongos. (1979)



Karl Gongos, in 1979, principal of High Prairie Junior High School.

The first Hairy Hill Trading Post and Post Office, 4 miles south of the present Hairy Hill town. It did a booming business. Built and owned by C.T. and Alvia McGowan early 1900's. They were from the U.S.A.

Donna graduated from Two Hills High School and attended Alberta College. She married Trevor Wrigleworth from Edmonton. They have two children, Mark and Janice and are presently living in Calgary.

Colleen graduated from Two Hills School and attended Alberta College. She married Danny Martin from St. Paul and they are living there with their three sons: Robert, Russell and Scott.

Karl attended the Two Hills High School and then the University of Alberta. He is married to Arlene Schell and they live in High Prairie, Alberta. They have three children: Pamela, Shaun and Adam. Karl is principal of the Junior High School in High Prairie.

Sally married Danny Yake and lives in St. Paul. They have two sons: Jeffrey and Jason.

Peggy married Basil Mackenzie from Brosseau and they live in Edmonton.

The Gongas family has, therefore, grown by twelve grandchildren.

ROBERT GALLOWAY

by Mrs. Henriette Galloway

My Father, James Burl Gray was born in Ontario. He went to U.S.A. when he was seventeen with his parents and family. My Mother, Tryphena Craft, was born in the state of Illinois. My father and mother came to Alberta in 1905, settling near Gull Lake and later at Rocky Mountain House in Alberta. I am the youngest of ten children.

Robert's father was Alexander Galloway who came to Canada as a young boy from Scotland. His mother was Loretta Hodge from Lachute, Quebec.

The Robert Galloway family taken behind Bob's house in Duvernay in 1969 at the back — Robert, Henrietta, Jack, David; in the centre — Mary Denis holding Robbie Scott, Loretta Scott holding Mark Galloway, Hilda (David's wife); the grand-children — Mike, Robert, JoAnne, David Jr., Jocelyn, Jim with his back to the camera and hiding Jean Buy, Richard.

Robert and I married August 8, 1934 at Rocky Mountain House. he had a farm there and also worked at the Brazeau Collieries at Nordegg, Alberta.

We moved, here, to Duvernay, when the mines were closing in 1954. Actually, the mines did not close until 1955 but, we knew what was coming so took the first opportunity to find a job elsewhere.

Robert started work at the Western Chemicals plant in May 1954. The children and I came at the end of June. We had four children with us. I lost my father and our son Jim after we came to Duvernay.

We had $900 when we left Nordegg, in May 1954, with which we bought two lots in Duvernay. With the help of the children, and some of our neighbors we started building a house and were able to move into the basement by November 27th, 1954. It took a lot of money — pinching and hard work but we finally got it livable. Mrs. McMow and family, as well as the Henry Coutu boys were a great help during those five months. Mrs. McCow remained a good friend right through until her passing away.

In March 1971, we left to go to Nordegg, where Robert worked for eight years. We have come back to our first home in Duvernay where we have now retired. Our daughter, Mary, who worked as X-Ray and Lab Technician in the Two Hills Hospital, lived here in our house for most of those eight years we were absent. Jack also has a little house in Duvernay.

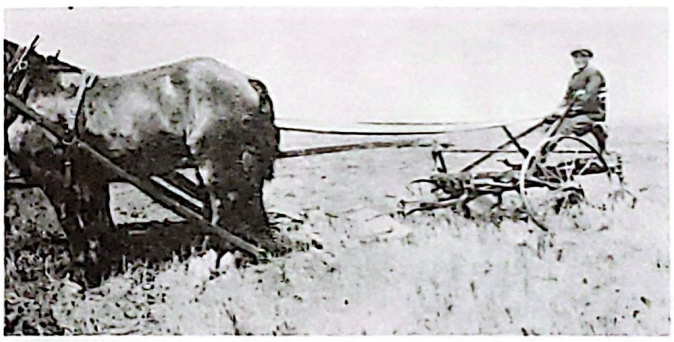
Mary, Loretta and Jack attended school in Two Hills. Mary and Loretta enlisted in the Airforce in Edmonton and were stationed in Clinton, Ontario. David married Hilda and works in Kitimat, B.C. They have 4 children. Loretta married Ron Scott, in Ontario, and has two boys. Mary married Roger Denis while she was in the Airforce, and has four boys.

She is pursuing her career at Exshaw, Alberta. Jack is an Electrician and Instrument Technician, working at Rocky Mountain House.

Robert loves working in his garden and always grows too many vegetables for us so he gives some away to friends. I enjoy doing handicraft, knitting etc. and growing house plants, of which I have many varieties.

Mr. & Mrs. Alexandre Gouin, parents of Mr. Evariste Gouin of Lafond, Alberta. Photo taken in 1901.

Evariste Gouin, (16 years) with his mother, Mrs. Alexandre Gouin, taken in 1918, in Montréal.



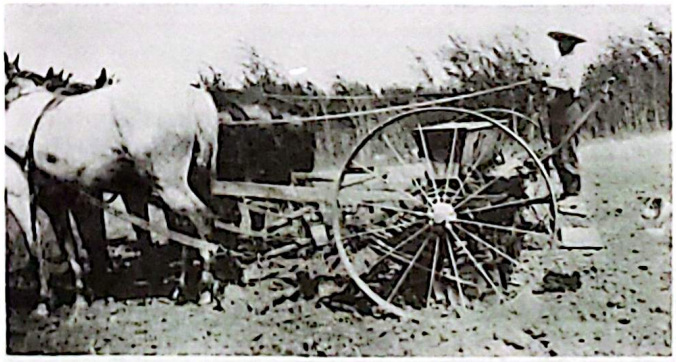
Mr. Evariste Gouin, taken in 1928, driving four horses on his gang plow (2 furrow) taken at Lafond, 1928.

EVARISTE GOUIN

by E. Gouin

Evariste Gouin, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Alexandre Gouin, was born on December 27, 1901, at St. Felix of Kinsey, P.Q. He attended the village school until the age of twelve. After his father's death in 1913, he went to the "College des Frères de St. Croix" in Montreal, for the next four years. Illness at Easter of 1918 caused him to discontinue his studies.

In July of 1918, he came out west and lived with his uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Lafond, helping with the land clearing and the farming in general. In 1919 he bought a half section, across the road, south of his



Mr. Evariste Gouin driving four horses on his drill taken in Lafond, 1928.

uncle's homestead. Later he built a big house and a barn and in 1939 moved to his own home. After his uncle's death in 1940, his aunt came to live with him.

In 1942, Evariste married Justine Gagné. Unfortunately she died in 1946, leaving a three-month old son, little Denis.

In 1953 Evariste was remarried to Mrs. Paul Gagné and they continued to live on the farm, milking several cows, raising some hogs and farming the half section.

In 1960 he rented his land, sold his machinery but kept milking cows and feeding pigs.

In 1973, he sold his livestock, but continued to enjoy his home and the fine country air. He is still there in 1980 and plans on remaining there as long as possible.

His son Denis, a chef by trade, has his home in the hamlet of Lafond, where he spends his holidays and days off from his job.

Denis spent a couple of years in U.S.A., working as a jockey, where his slight build was a real asset.

MR. AND MRS. JOSEPH GAULIN

One of our pioneers, Mr. Joseph Gaulin, was born in 1874 at St. Hedwidge de Clifton, Quebec. His wife, Miss Vien, was born in the same village in 1879 and was raised with the Sisters of the Presentation de Marie. She taught school until she was married to Joseph Gaulin, by Father Wilfred Morache. They established themselves on a farm where they remained for five years.

From left to right: George Emile Perra his daughter Germain, Axele and his wife. Mde Emile Perra and daughter Emilin, Mrs. Ensolin Perra, Mrs. Gaulin and Joe Gaulin.

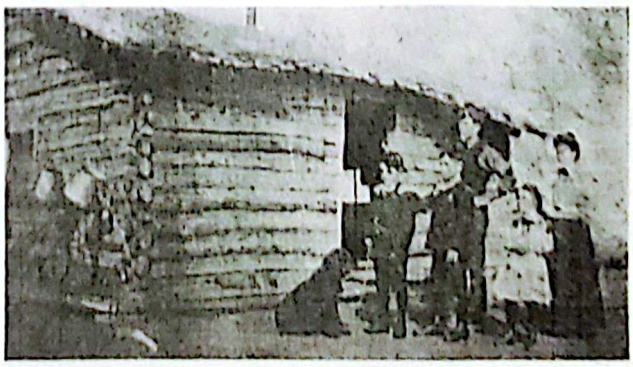
In the spring of 1903, Mr. Gaulin decided to move out west, to Duvernay. People returning from the west, had told them that the land was of better quality and more reasonable in price there. At that time, 160 acres was selling for $10.00 out west, while in St. Hedwidge, 50 acres was going at $500.00. Mrs. Gaulin did not accompany her husband at that time due to the illness of their youngest son, but after her son recovered she joined her husband. Mrs. Gaulin and her three young children were accompanied by the Gervais and Vincents families. They travelled for 5 days and 5 nights, with no modern facilities. They arrived at Strathcona, which at that time was the stopping place for all pioneers, as Edmonton had no station, and proceeded to cross the river by ferry.

Shortly after arriving in the west they lost their youngest son from dysentery. The day after the funeral, she was admitted to hospital for the birth of their fourth child. She had to have an operation which made her stay in hospital for one and half months. A Sister was kind enough to look after the children for them, but it was a long month and a half for the children. They thought their mother had gone to church but it was taking so long for the mass to finish.

In the meantime, Mr. Gaulin, kept himself busy by building a house, which when finished was about 10' x 12'. It was furnished with a small stove, a bed made of boards, without a mattress, and for a table a large box was used surrounded by smaller apple boxes for chairs. But most important Mr. Gaulin had to support his family on a salary of 75¢ a day.

Two months later these pioneer families started to build two rafts, to be used on the long journey down the river to Duvernay. They brought with them the little furniture and personal belongings they had. It was a long 100 miles for the women and children. But the rosary gave them courage and the long trip ended in safety.

Together the men began building log homes and each family chose a homestead. For fifteen hard years Mr. and Mrs. Gaulin worked and prayed that they would have food on the table to feed their growing family. Most every-



Mr. and Mrs. Gaulin in front of their sod covered home in 1909 with their three children.

day they were visited by wolves. On one occasion, the children were outside playing and a pack of wolves came towards them. In fear the children ran screaming towards the house, once safely in the house they thanked God they had four walls to protect them. They kept a close watch that evening and the wolves did not leave until the early morning.

In 1919, after 15 years in Duvernay, they moved to Morinville, selling their farm to Mr. Philip Lakusta. After a period of ten years, Mr. Gaulin retired and moved to St. Albert.

On January 9, 1948, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Gaulin celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Father Labonte assisted by Father Tourigny, Father Meeham, and Father Gaudet gave the sermon. Mr. and Mrs. J.B. Vincent accompanied the couple to the altar. Some old timers that were there to celebrate this day were, Mr. and Mrs. Adelard Bechard (who also had homesteaded in Duvernay), Mrs. Louisa Theroux from Warwick, along with friends from Edmonton, Villeneuve, Legal, and Morinville. Without doubt all their children and grandchildren were present.

On February 17, 1949, Mrs. Gaulin passed away. She had lived a very active life and spent many hours decorating the altar in the church, which gave her much pleasure. A few years later in August 1957, Mr. Gaulin followed his wife. He had worked at the Youville Convent for a few years and was guardian at the cemetry. He dug the graves and assisted Father at the graveside for the funerals. At the time of his death he was survived by Sister Marie Solange of Jesus of Morinville, Mde. Perras of Edmonton, Alexande of Edmonton, George of St. Albert, Laurend of Rosebud, Alberta, Alva of St. Albert, and Florien of Los Angeles.

This story was written by Sister Marie Solange of Jesus, as she was adopted by Mr. and Mrs. Gaulin when she lost her mother at the age of 3 yrs. old.

D.M. GELETA

Courtesy of the St. Paul Journal

Mr. Dick Geleta, Mayor of Two Hills for 37 years, was born in the New Kiev district in November 1916. He graduated from the University of Alberta on August 12th, 1940 and apprenticed under Mr. Fedorchuk for two years, after which time he took the practice and business over and has been in the same business since.

He was elected by acclamation as Mayor in the fall of 1942 and held the office by acclamation until the October 1977 election. At this time the seat was contested, but the citizens of Two Hills saw fit to return him to his long held position by an overwhelming majority. He was the Mayor of Two Hills for 37 years, a record unmatched in the province of Alberta.

In 1944 he was responsible for organizing the hospital board which was successful in starting the construction of a new hospital, known today as the Two

Lena and Dick Geleta.

Hills General Hospital. He was elected as board chairman in 1950 and has this position for all but 1½ years, for which time he served as vice-chairman.

He has also been active in the following: (a) Organizing the construction of the Municipal office and served as town representative for a number of years. (b) Promoting Chamber of Commerce activities and serving as an executive member. (c) Member of the Voluntary Fire Brigade. (d) Active member of the Disaster Services Organization. (e) Took part in the organizing of the Centennial year celebrations, which included the canoe pageant, for which he received a centennial medal. (f) Active member of the Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church and Choir. (g) Chairman of the Directors involved in organizing the construction of the curling rink, arena, centennial hall and ball park.

Mr. Geleta was also an active member in the following organizations: Elks Club, Royal Canadian Legion, Fish and Game Association, Agricultural Society and the latest is the Golf Club.

His main hobby was playing in an orchestra. He had his own orchestra for over 20 years and found it to be very profitable in the 1940's, at which time he managed to buy his first car.

Mr. Geleta has been Justice of the Peace for 17 years.

He was married in 1946 to Lena Stoski. They have three children, 2 girls and 1 boy. Both girls, Sharon and Betty, have achieved Bachelor of Education degrees and music diplomas. Richard the youngest is in his final year of engineering.

Mr. Geleta's most recent achievement was in 1974 when he received the Pharmaceutical Bowl of Hygeia Award from A. H. Robins for his outstanding services to the community.

In April 1977 the Town of Two Hills honored him at a reception to commemorate his having been mayor for 35 years. It was time when many dignitaries, old and new friends gathered to pay tribute and show their appreciation for his unrelenting community activities. It was very evident the high regard and great respect that everyone held for him. A man who always puts others and the community before himself. Numerous tributes were

MAYOR GELETA IN 1979 RODEO PARADE — This picture of Mayor Dick Geleta and Mrs. Geleta taken at the Two Hills Rodeo Parade in August of 1979 was at his special request. At the time he said it might be the last time, hinting unofficially that he could resign for the next election, or maybe he had a premonition. Mayor Geleta was laid to rest January 4th after serving 37 years as Mayor of Two Hills, a provincial record.

received on this momentus occasion. They were from: The Hon. Peter Lougheed, Premier of Alberta; Lieutenant-Governor Ralph Steinhauer, Don Mazankowski MP; John Batuik MLA; Town of Myrnam; Two Hills Chemical Plant; Chamber of Commerce; Lions Club and the Royal Canadian Legion.

Mr. D. M. Geleta of Two Hills, passed away in Calgary on December 31st, 1979. This dynamic and always pleasant person tended to his personal business as well as carrying out his duties of Mayor in his normal easy going manner, and will be greatly missed by everyone who knew him.

ODILON GAGNÉ

by Members of the 2nd Generation

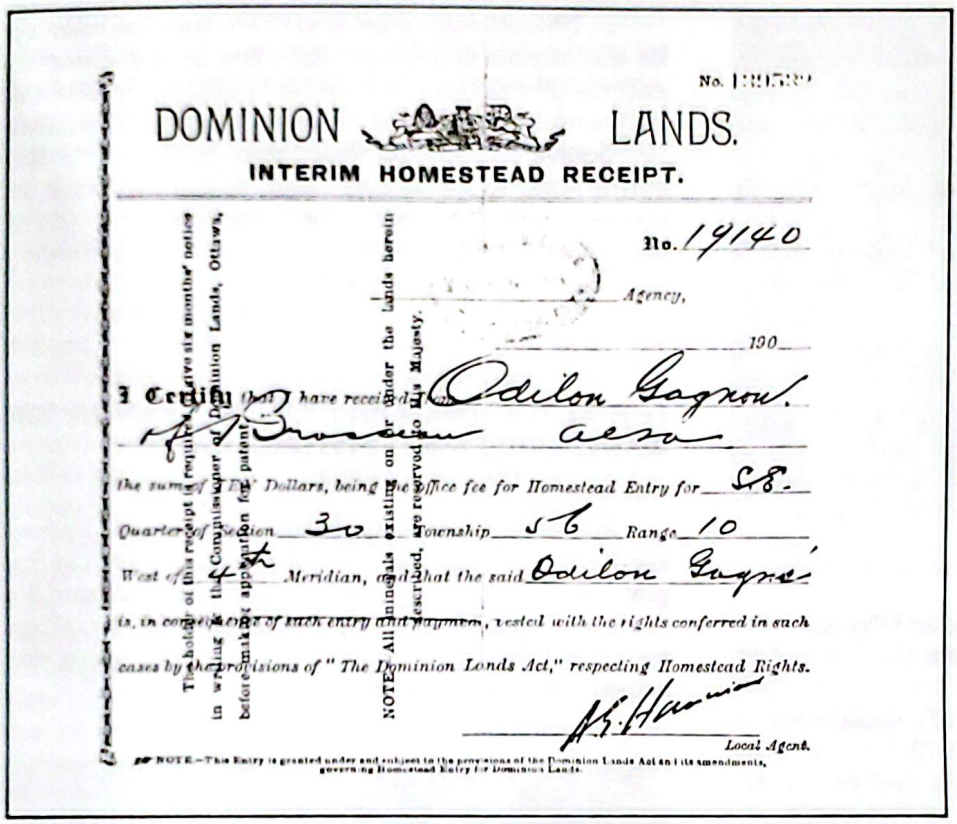
Odilon Gagné left Rimouski in the north-eastern part of Quebec in the year 1900 to work in the lumber camps of northern Ontario for two years before going to British Columbia to work for mine companies.

On his way to British Columbia in the winter of 1902, when passing through the southern part of what was then the North-West Territories, that is around Pincher Creek, he noticed that the cattle were still in the pastures in the middle of the winter, so he decided that if he went into farming it would be in this region that he would like to be. After working in Trail, B.C. for two years he came back to Pincher Creek where he worked for a farmer, that is Mr. Routhier Father of Bishop Henri Routhier. There he heard about the free land, settlers could get up north, so he went there to start ranching, not knowing that it would not be the same climate as at Pincher Creek. He took the train to Edmonton and there met the Lafond (Léonard, Charles-Barromé Sr. and family), who were also looking for homesteads, so they left Edmonton going east to Brosseau, then north-east to what was to become the Lafond district.

After looking the land over he chose the south-east quarter of section 30, Township 56, Range 10, Maridian 4, where a running creek was to provide year-round water and hay, and also vacant land all around for pasture. He decided that it was a good place to start ranching. The new-comers returned to Edmonton to file their homesteads and to get equipment and supplies. After they had done their shopping they built a raft by the river and loaded their goods on it, including a hay rake and a mower, and down the river they went to Brosseau. There they took the raft apart and hauled it to the homestead where Odilon used the lumber for his shack, which he built by the creek. This shack and most of his belongings burned down the following spring when a prairie fire ransacked the whole countryside. Soon after these events settlers started coming in to take homesteads. Among the first were George Robinson Sr., Jack Chester, Nickolaichuk Sr. and Jos. Poitras. their place of business was Brosseau where there was a store, a stopping place and a Post Office. After a while a Post Office was obtained for the nearby settlers and it was called Lafond, after the first postmaster, Mr. Charles-Barromé Lafond Sr.

As the years passed things improved and Odilon Gagné somehow met and courted the daughter of a Louis Noel who had homesteaded in the Beauvallon district. He married Bertha Noël in 1911 and raised a family of twelve children.

The ranching enterprise seemed to be successful by the reading of a diary that Bertha kept and which states the number and the prices of cattle heads and horses sold



DOMINION LANDS.

INTERIM HOMESTEAD RECEIPT.

No. 19140

Agency,

190

I Certify that I have received from Odilon Gagnon.

the sum of Ten Dollars, being the office fee for Homestead Entry for S.E.

Quarter of Section 30 Township 56 Range 10

West of the 4th Meridian, and that the said Odilon Gagné

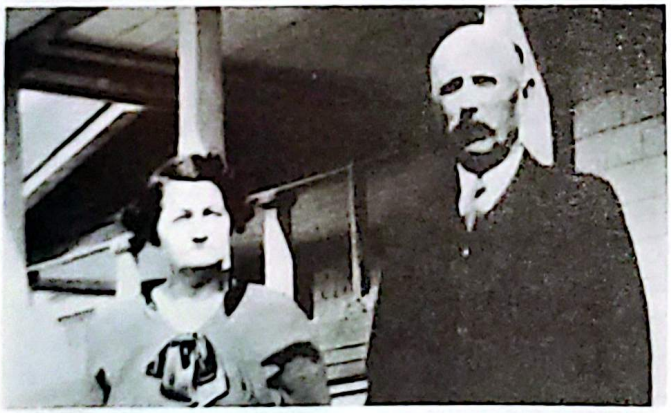
is, in consideration of such entry and payment, vested with the rights conferred in such cases by the provisions of "The Dominion Lands Act," respecting Homestead Rights.

Local Agent.

NOTE.—This Entry is granted under and subject to the provisions of the Dominion Lands Act and Its amendments, governing Homestead Entry for Dominion Lands.

The holder of this receipt is required to give six months' notice in writing to the Commissioner of Dominion Lands, Ottawa, before making application for patent.

NOTE.—All mines and minerals existing on or under the lands herein described, are reserved to His Majesty.



Mr. and Mrs. Odilon Gagné (Née Bertha Noël). Picture taken in 1936, four years before Mrs. Gagné passed away from cancer.

A typical architecture of the depression years . . . The renovated home of the Gagné family of Lafond, as it appeared in 1936. To the left is the original log house, built before 1911, in the center is a lean-to built in 1918 and the section to the right is a house moved from the Desjardins quarter. It proved to be practical and suitable for the large family of 12 children.

Stacking hay at Arge Gagné's.

around home in those years. The prices could range from $125.00 for a single horse to $325.00 for two mares; cattle heads from $38.00 to $50.00.

During the First World War the price of grain increased, so he added grain farming to stock raising and started buying more land. Among the properties bought over the years were the following: Jim House's, Desaul-

niers' (Pit), Desjardins', School Section quarter, Courtemanche's, also an 80-acre in St. Paul where the present Drive-In Theatre now stands, on the east side of the town. In the 1930's such a piece of land was sold for barely $600.00, but 30 years later with prospects of development in view it had raised to more than $18,000.00.

In 1977 a family reunion gathered more than 125 members of the Gagné family. The children and grandchildren came mostly from different localities in Alberta and from British Columbia. Mr. Odilon Gagné passed away in 1971, only a few months short of his 100th birthday. Another family reunion planned for the summer of 1980 will bring again the second, third and fourth generations together. It should prove interesting to reminesce and see the long ways from the beginning of 1905.

As remembered by members of the Second Generation.

A survey of the family would be as follows:

Irene (Mrs. Charles Lafrance) from Victoria had 11 children.

Lucille (Mrs. Leo Lemaire) from Bonnyville had 3 children. She passed away August 1972.

Arge married Annette Desaulniers and lives in St. Paul.

Florence has been a Sister of the Assumption for 44 years and lives in Edmonton. She was the first teacher of grades 5-9 in the new St. Laurent School in Brosseau, built in 1954. She taught there for 4 years.

Germain married Lucy Laboucane and has 4 children and lives in Port Alberni, B.C.

Marie-Anne (Mrs. Arthur Jubinville) had 13 children.

Maurice married Jeannine Poirier, had 8 children, lives in Port Coquitlam, B.C.

Lionel married Albina Robinson, 10 children, lives in St. Paul.

Clemence (Mrs. Leon Joly) from St. Paul had 5 children.

Laurence became a Sister of Holy Cross and lives in Edmonton.

Fernande (Mrs. Raymond Lefebvre) lives in St. Paul and has 7 children.

Marcel married Ruth Ellis has 4 children and lives in Penticton, B.C.

SOPHIE AND JOHNNY HUPPIE

by Suzanne Coutu

Johnny Huppie married Sophie Ladouceur in 1899 at the Lac La Biche Mission. Shortly after their wedding they took up homesteading here at South Bend North West Territories which it was called at that time. They filed on the North-West 35-55-12 west of 4th meridian. They came with their brother-in-law Mr. & Mrs. Martin Lavallee who took up homesteading on the east quarter of the same section. They were one of the first settlers to farm and ranch in this area, just after the turn of the century.

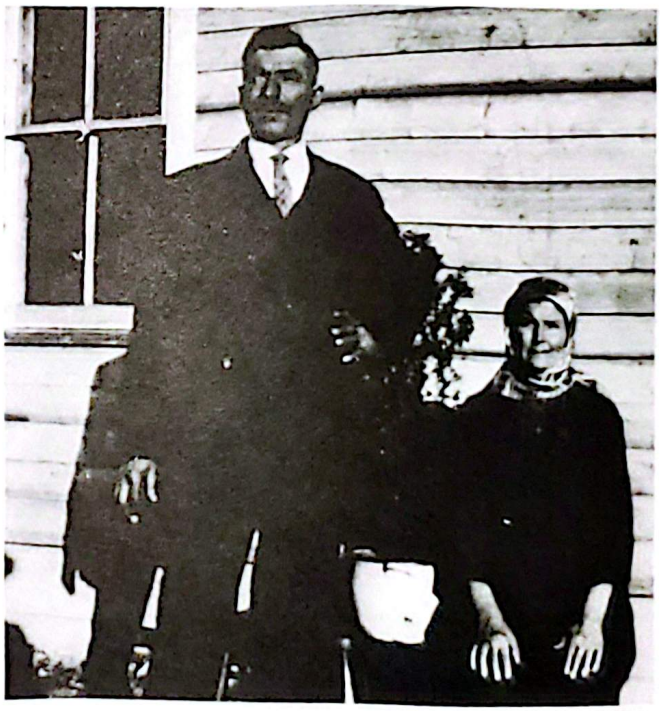
In 1906, almost all the land in the area was taken up for homesteads and grazing land was getting scarce, so eventually he decided to trade his farm to Ambroise Gray for horses and cattle and move on to greener pastures.

Sophie and Johnny trailed their herd of cattle and horses north to the Beaver River, where they took up homesteading once again. They must have been one of the first settlers to leave this area due to overcrowding almost seventy-five years ago.

THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF THE FAMILY OF WASYL (WILLIAM) HRYHIRCHUK

by Wasyl Hryhirchik

My mother, nee Irene Fakas, daughter of Onufrey and Katerina Fakas, was born of a peasant family in the year 1881, in the village of Uski which was situated by the River Prut in Ukraine. My mother attended the village school in Uski and attained grade six, after which she helped her parents toil in the fields.



Nikolai and Irene Hryhirchuk in 1938, at their farm.

In the year of 1879, my father, Nikolai, son of Wasyl and Anna Hryhirchuk, was born in the neighboring village of the birthplace of my mother, named Budyliw, also in the Ukraine. My father was baptized in the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, and also attended class six. After completing his school my father helped my grandfather in carpentry work until he reached the age of twenty-one years and decided to get married. My parents, Irene and Nikolai, were blessed with five children, namely: Maria, born in 1902; Wasyl in 1904; Anna in 1905; Dmytro in 1907 and Myroslaw in 1910.

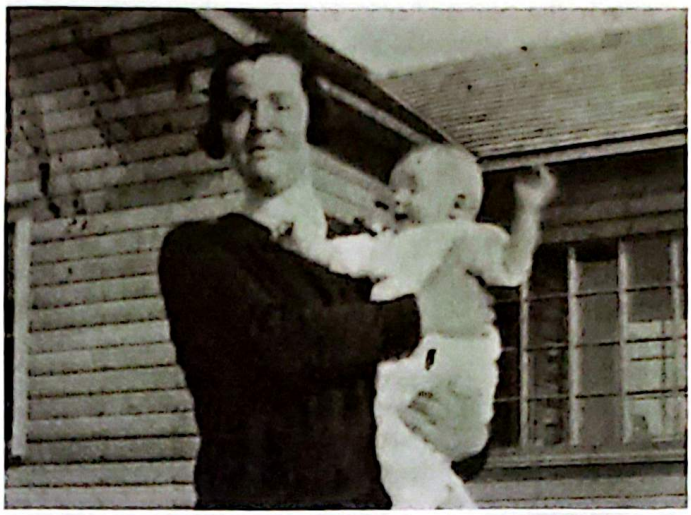
When the children were growing up, my father noticed that it was difficult to provide for a good living for the family under the conditions, at that time, in Ukraine. In the year 1907, he decided to leave the family behind and go to Canada and look for greener pastures. When he reached Canada he immediately noticed that the conditions were quite difficult, since there was a depression at that time and no work was available. My father became aware that he had used poor judgement, unknowingly, by leaving his family behind in Ukraine so decided to go back, but due to the depression, he did not have the money to buy his ticket to get back home. He wrote my mother to sell a piece of land that he owned there to realize enough money for him to go back. My mother complied with his request, and, after receiving the money for the ticket, he left Cnaada for Ukraine in 1908.

After his arrival in Ukraine and spending a week with the family he was called to serve in the armed forces. After serving two months of compulsory training he returned to his home and worked as a carpenter around the neighboring villages where the wages for a carpenter were much higher than an ordinary labourer's. In the year of 1909 my father sold his property and moved back to the village of Budyliw, his birthplace and lived with my grandfather in a house, under one roof. He was making a fairly good living as a carpenter.

In 1911, I, Wasyl Hryhirchuk, attended a village school until, in 1914, the first World War broke out and all the village schools were closed.

My father was a politician and always interested in world affairs and, after noticing the great unrest in Europe, he knew that he would again have to serve in the armed forces so, in 1913, he decided to go back to Canada, where he found that the condition and economy were better than in 1908. He purchased a homestead at Lac Bellevue, south west of the present town of St. Paul, Alberta. He worked as a carpenter, as well as on his homestead, tilling the soil and erecting a house and other buildings. After making some money in 1921 he bought tickets for my mother and the family for their new destination, Canada, and arranged for their passports. We were very reluctant and sad to leave the rest of our relatives in Ukraine but we had no choice but to join our father. We knew that we would not be able to communicate in the predominant language of the people of our district.

On November 22, 1921 we said good-bye to the rest of the relatives in our village and started on our voyage. From the town of Sniatyn, in Ukraine, we boarded the train and arrived in France; then in a small passenger boat across the English Channel to Dover, England; by train to Liverpool. There we boarded the big passenger ship named Olympic, and crossed the Atlantic Ocean to Halifax, Nova Scotia. We arrived there on December 9, 1921 at 6:00 p.m. After spending the night on the ship we took the train to Vegreville, Alberta which at that time was the closest railway station to my father's homestead. After a tiresome ride of five days and five nights we arrived at Vegreville on December 15, 1921 at



Mary Petruk (Hryhirchuk) and daughter Lena in 1935. Mr. Hryhirchuk's house in the background burned down in 1952.

10:00 p.m. My father and his two friends, Safron Sakaluk and Alex Eliuk were anxiously waiting for our arrival. Next morning we went by horse and sleigh about 30 miles north of Vegreville, to Alex Eliuk's place. At that time he lived by the present Shepenitz church. After staying overnight there we left for Lac Bellevue.

Upon arriving at my father's homestead, we were very disappointed to find the two-roomed house plastered with clay and the walls were very dark. It was nearing Christmas and the house was not appealing to my sisters who, immediately, got some kalsomine and whitewashed the walls. It made the house much brighter and more presentable to celebrate our first Christmas in Canada.

When we came to join my father he had 27 head of cattle, five head of horses and some machinery. I began to think that my father's assets were worth a lot of

Marshall Hryhirchuk's daughter Lily is an opera singer in Toronto and played the part of Laura Farrel in the play of Screwge and she was the one who returned him the ring.

Marshall (Myroslaw) and Rose Hryhirchuk and their daughter, Lily, in 1943.

money. In the spring after looking over the grey-wooded soil and all the stones in the field, I was not impressed with this type of farmland. I begged my father to sell this farm and look for a farm with better soil and less stones. In 1923 he purchased SE¼ 4-56-11 W4 at Brosseau, Alberta. Our entire family worked on this farm until my sister, Maria, married Wasyl Petruk of Warwick in 1922. (They were blessed with six children.) Sister Annie married Steve Snaychuk, in 1924, who farmed in the Brosseau district. (They had seven children.) My brother Dmytro worked with my father until 1930 when he married Genia Popowich and farmed in Lafond. They sold this land and purchased a dairy farm in B.C. They were blessed with two children. In 1976 Dmytro took sick and after a short illness passed away. My brother Myroslaw attended the school at Mamaestie until he attained grade 3 and then obtained his auto mechanics papers from a trade school in Saskatoon. In 1937 he married Rose Mandrusiak. They have one daughter. He became the proprietor of the Valley Motors in Chilliwack, B.C. He is now retired and living in Vernon, B.C.

I, Wasyl Hryhirchuk, helped my parents on the farm until 1937. In 1925 I remember threshing with Joe Theroux and Mose Theroux with their Rumley steam engine around Duvernay, (Brookes and Korchenko)

In 1937 I married Katerina Chilibeck, and started farming in Lac Bellevue on my father's homestead. In

Wasyl (Bill) and Katerina (Katie) Hryhirchuk, 1976.

Orest and Phyllis Hryhirchuk.

Shirley and Arnold Kovill with Roberta and Jody.

1945 I bought a farm in Lafond and farmed there for a few years. I sold these and purchased my father's homeplace at Brosseau.

My father, Nikolai, died June 21, 1949 and my mother, Irene, on December 3, 1966. Both are interred in the Mamaestie cemetery of Brosseau.

I farmed on my father's farm until 1963, when I sold and moved into the town of Two Hills where I mainly worked as a carpenter until my retirement in 1969.

Katerina and I have been blessed with two children: Orest — born March 1, 1939, in Lac Bellevue, married Phyllis Shapka from Whitford, live in Edmonton. Shirley — born October 28, 1941, married Arnold Kvill, has two children, Roberta and Judy, lives in Mayerthorpe, Alberta.

FRED HASIUK

by Robt. Bachelet

Fred was born May 5, 1920, son of John and Mary Hasiuk from Starawa, Ukraine, who emigrated to Canada in 1910. He went to school at Stony Rapid, 2 miles west and 3 miles south of Beauvallon, Alberta, from 1928-1935, finishing Grade 6. His main teacher was Mr. Arthur Burkitt. While attending school he lived with his parents on SE 33-53-10-W4th.

After finishing school he went to work for Ollie Christianson for $1.00 a day. He worked for local farmers until 1941 when he went into partnership with Harold Christianson, farming W½ 22-53-19-W4th and residing on that land. They farmed with horses. As a sideline they broke broncs for local farmers, one being Hugo Langkow, who had lots of horses. When his partner got married in June, 1944 the partnership was dissolved.

On November 12, 1944 Fred married Rose Kutryk in the Innisfree Greek Catholic Church with Rev. Father Kurylo officiating.

Rose, daughter of John and Julia Kutryk of Stubno (which is 7 miles north of Beauvallon, Alberta) was born

March 15, 1918. In 1926 Rose started school, finishing in 1933 with grade 7. Her teachers were Miss Smith (Mrs. Dan Primak, Myrnam), Miss Margaret Lorenson, Miss Anne Mahashkiw (now Mrs. Joe Green of Vermilion). After school Rose worked on her parents' farm until 1943 when she was employed at the Beauvallon Hotel for John Michaelchuk. In 1944 she went back home and in November she married Fred.

After their honeymoon, Rose and Fred purchased a dray business from Mr. Scherba and sold it, 4 months later, to Mike Smoliak of Myrnam. Fred became an elevator agent for United Grain Growers at Beauvallon.

On December 6, 1945 their first son was born, in Vegreville, and he was christened Harvey Joseph.

In 1946 Fred began buying livestock for the Myrnam Co-op, as a sub-agent, every Thursday, in Beauvallon, a sideline to his elevator job.

A second son, John Eugene, was born, August 13, 1947, in Vegreville.

In 1948 Fred bought Imperial Esso Bulk Station from Trifon Arychuk, sub-agency of Myrnam until 1954, when it was closed down.

On May 29, 1952 their third son, Marshall Don was born in Two Hills Hospital and on February 19, 1957 their daughter, Betty Anne (Mrs. Terry Magdiak) was born in Two Hills.

In the spring of 1960, they sold their house in Beauvallon to John Polishuk, a retired farmer, and bought NE 10-54-10-W4th from Anton Proskiw, ½ mile west of Beauvallon, along highway 45. They became active farmers on this land while Fred still bought grain until 1967 when farming became a full time job. Besides UGG sold out to Alberta Wheat Pool.

In May of 1968, a big County election came up when Alexander Boida resigned as councillor to go into the hotel business. Fred was elected councillor for Division #3.

1969 was a great year for Rose when a new house was constructed on the farm, with all the city conveniences.

On October, 1977, in a county election, Fred lost out to previous councillor, Alexander Boida. This was to be the end of Fred's political career, but, following Alexander Boida's untimely death in September, 1979, Fred was re-elected as councillor of the Two Hills County #21, a position he still holds.

On October 28, 1967, son Harvey married Sophie Spachinski from Myrnam, giving the Hasiuk's 2 grandchildren, Wanda and Neil.

The second son, John, married Judy Tabb from Nanaimo, B.C. Two more grandchildren for Fred and Rose, Gillian and Ginelle. John is a member of the RCMP since 1968.

On August 13, 1977 Betty married Terry Magdiak from Myrnam and they live in Edmonton.

THE HOHOL FAMILY

by Dr. Harry Hohol

Ukraine — the "Bread Basket" of Europe. "Zelena Bukavina", the lush, fertile, southwesternmost province of Ukraine, an area which for centuries had been subject to foreign rule by Turks, Tartars, Rumanians, Hungarian and Austrians (hence the *technically* correct but otherwise wrong claim by many Canadians of Ukrainian descent who called themselves "Austrians"). At the turn of the century, Bukovina was part of the territory in Ukraine under the rule of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

Although the land and the people were productive, life in Ukraine was fraught with difficulties. There appeared to be no hope of self-government, most of the land was owned by rich land-lords who parcelled out small tracts from which the major portion of production was to be turned over to the owner. There was little or no hope for the sons of such farm people to obtain their own land. Then came the news of a new land where, for ten dollars one could file a claim to 160 acres of virgin land in Canada and the Northwest Territories! Newspaper advertisements promised jobs and opportunities impossible to resist. Parents and whole families often sold their most prized posssessions in order to provide a son with enough money to embark on the long trip across land and sea to this new land of promise.

So it was with Hrehory (Harry) Hohol', a man in his early twenties, a Corporal in the Austrian Army, home in the village of Orshivtsi, Bukovina after a four-year stint of service. He was soon caught up in the spirit of adventure and the hope of a better life. Bitter-sweet farewells were exchanged and he was soon on the train for the month-long trip to Hamburg. Two weeks on a steamship brought him to Halifax from whence he continued by train, wagon and on foot through Montreal, Winnipeg, Calgary and finally Edmonton.

The first order of business was to file a claim to homestead a quarter of land (presently owned and operated by Vern Chisan) in the Brosseau area. Next, shopping for his needs and arranging for himself and his effects to be transported by raft on the North Saskatchewan River and/or by horses and wagon to the homestead site.

In due course, Hrehory Hohol' married Mary Ruptash whose father, Olexa, left Szypenitz, Bukuvina, just a few kilometers from Orshivtsi, in 1901. With her help, and that of neighbours in the same plight, land was cleared and soon bearing crops. However, this land was sold after only a few years and the family re-settled on a new homestead four miles west of Duvernay. Once again the process of clearing and breaking new land was undertaken, this time with the help of a steadily growing and increasing family which eventially led to five sons and one daughter (a third-born son died in infancy), William, Nick, Ann, John, Bert and Dave.

With the eventual acquisition of another quarter of land (one mile south and one-half mile west of Duvernay), along with the rental of a quarter of CPR land next

to it, the family prospered through the "Roaring Twenties" — such as they were on the western prairies. Then came the great Depression and the beginning of a new period of hard times. In spite of this, and notwithstanding the untimely passing away of pioneer Hrehory, mother Mary Hohol and the family continued their chosen paths of life.

William assumed ownership of the land nearest Duvernay and continued to operate it until his retirement in 1978. He married Jean Padlesky, whose parents immigrated to Canada from the province of Galicia, Western Ukraine. They had first settled in Skaro, Alberta, but opted to sell their original homestead in order that they might buy a half-section of land in the Duvernay area. (Barney Weir lives on one of those quarter sections now).

William and Jean Hohol now reside in "semi"-retirement on an acreage in Duvernay, and constantly look forward to the irregular and not frequent enough visits of their three sons and their families.

Harry married Alexandra Serna, daughter of John M. Serna of Two Hills, (93 years of age as of June, 1980 and still vitally interested and active in the Senior Citizens' Recreation Centre though a resident of the Two Hills Nursing Home). Harry obtained his B.Ed. degree at the University of Alberta, a Master of Science degree in Physical Education at the University of Washington (Seattle), and the degree of Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Illinois (Urbana). He is currently the supervisor of Physical Education for the Edmonton Public School system. Alexandra also obtained a Bachelor of Education degree and has been teaching in an elementary school for the past seven years.

Harry and Alexandra were blessed with three children, Demjan, Shannon and Keenan. The latter is still in high school at this time. Shannon is completing studies leading to her Bachelor of Education degree, while Demjan is currently completing his final year at St. Andrew's College in Winnipeg toward the degree of Bachelor of Divinity (Ukrainian Orthodox). He had previously earned an Honors Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Alberta in Edmonton.

Ernie married Lydia Reznick of Drayton Valley. They are the proud parents of three children, too; Tina, Terry and Tammy, all in public school at this time. After brief stints of work experience with road construction and pipeline equipment and summer resort work in Banff, the family finally settled in Spruce Grove, Alberta. Ernie now works as the labour foreman and maintenance mechanic for a masonry construction firm in Edmonton.

Ron married Bernice Storoz of Barrhead and they, too, are the proud parents of three children, all in elementary school; Laurie, Tracy and Ryan. Ron farmed with his father, William, for a short while and while doing so worked at the Chemical Plant in Duvernay. He subsequently made plans to embark on another career in Edmonton which resulted in the attainment of certification in refrigeration mechanics and installation.

Nick Hohol assumed ownership of what is now know as the "home place" and continued to farm there until the early forties at which time he married Irene Shandro, a school teacher in Duvernay School (S.D. #1473) and promptly moved to Vermilion where he operated a garage for several years. He then moved to Flatbush, Alberta where he operated a general store until his retirement, upon which they moved to Edmonton. Nick and Irene have two sons, Bob and Jim, the former living in Calgary, the latter in Edmonton.

William and Jean Hohol (3rd and 4th from right) and family (1979).

Ann Hohol completed her high school and then married Felix Paradis. They farmed for some years just north of Foisy School where Ann filled in as a teacher while raising a family and helping on the farm. The family consists of two boys, Raymond and Donald, and a daughter Joyce. The family moved to Edmonton where Ann currently resides. Ray also lives in Edmonton, while Don has made his home in Medicine Hat and Joyce lives in Calgary.

John Hohol pursued a career in education. After attending Normal School, he obtained a teaching position at Ispas, Alberta. While there, he met and married Mabel Bujak. John taught at a variety of schools, including Duvernay, all the while attending university summer sessions until he attained the degree of Bachelor of Education. He and Mabel also became the parents of three children, Joanna, Elmer and Johnny. He finished his teaching career as Principal of Barrhead Junior High School and now enjoys an "active" retirement in Barrhead.

Albert E. "Bert" Hohol also pursued a career in education and followed it until he was enticed into the world of provincial politics. He served as Minister of Manpower and Labor and then as Minister of Advanced Education during his eight years with Peter Lougheed's Conservative government in Alberta (1971 — 1979). Bert began his educational career by attending Normal School and teaching briefly in the Peace River country just before joining the Royal Canadian Air Force during World War II. He continued his university education after the war and subsequently taught and/or acted as principal of a number of schools in the province (including Two Hills High School). He was briefly Superintendent of Schools in Jasper Place and then joined the Edmonton Public system where he ended up as Associate Superintendent. Bert married Kay Chrapko of Vegreville. Their son, Milton, and their daughter, Barbara, now reside in Edmonton as well. Bert is currently a Director on the Provincial Workmen's Compensation Board.

Dave Hohol married Mary Ewasiuk of Luzan, Alberta. They have four children: Carl, Linda, Dianne and Allan. Dave has pursued a career in farming, side-tracked only temporarily by several years of employment as a cell-room operator at the Chemical Plant in Duvernay. Dave purchased the "home place" from Nick and has since acquired additional land which he and his son Allan continue to operate as a father-son team.

Almost eighty years of history focuses on one family in this very brief summary. Words alone cannot describe the hardships of early life endured by the pioneers of the Brosseau-Duvernay area. However, in spite of these hardships, 'Hrehory Hohol' lived in, and his descendants continue to live in, a land of opportunity. Such is not the case in other parts of the world even today, almost a century after the first wave of Ukrainian settlers moved to Canada. May we have the strength, the courage, the tenacity and the wisdom to keep this a land of opportunity as did our pioneer forefathers!

A HAPPY-GO-LUCKY GAL

by A Friend

Madeleine Johnston, youngest daughter of Alex Johnston and Melanie Lavallee, was born February 26, 1904 at Lac la Biche, Alberta. Not too much is known of her early days, except that she had two sisters and three brothers, one, Leonide, was an exceptional fiddle player. With his uncle Fred Lavallee, another fiddler, they put out excellent toe-tapping music. Charles Marchand, noted singer and band leader from the province of Quebec in the 1920's, offered him a job with the intention of bringing him to France on his tour. For personal reasons Leonide turned it down.

Emilia Lavallee and Madeleine Johnston taken 1936.

Madeleine attended the Lac la Biche Mission run by "Les Filles de Jesus." Later on, she went to work in Edmonton for Judge Baril, then at the St. Joachim Rectory where she became proficient in the culinary arts, especially with her cookies and doughnuts.

She came to Brosseau to be close to her mother and grandmother, who lived with her uncle, Fred Lavallee. When Fred's house burned down and they had lost all of their possessions, including his violin, Mrs. Johnston returned to Lac la Biche. From then on, we claimed this fun-loving personality as "Ours". She worked for the Joe Brosseau family for fifteen years and was enjoyed by most people who knew her, for her warmhearted outlook on life. When the Brosseau children were grown-up and gone on their own, she worked for Emile Coutu and I'm positive that his son Donald is deeply grateful for the tender care she gave him.

Madeleine Johnston and her helper, Florence Brosseau, on the steps of the caboose in which she fed a threshing crew for one month, on a section of land belonging to Joe Brosseau in 1929.

Madeleine Johnston and some of her young friends, in Brosseau, 1937. To her left are: Regina Brosseau, Kay Bigland, Gabrielle Chouinard, Hermine Brosseau, Florence Brosseau.

In her forty-ninth year she was stricken by that merciless cancer and, in one year nearly to the day, she passed away, August 15, 1953, and was interred in the St. Laurent Cemetery, Brosseau.

I couldn't help but marvel at the fortitude shown as that deadly sickness ravaged her. She lived from day to day as if there was nothing unusually wrong with her. She enjoyed life to the fullest and a good joke always got a hearty laugh from her.

JOSEPH JOURNAULT

by Noella Brosseau

Joseph Adolphe Journault (1880-1943) son of Philippe Zoel Journault and Vitaline Fortin was born September 8, 1880 in L'Islet Quebec.

(taken from a pocket diary)

Left from Montreal with a partner named Alphonse Boucher on April 14, 1909, destination Alberta, with stops in Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton and Vegreville. Told there he had to file for a homestead through Edmonton so went back and filed for NW¼ 3-57-19-W4th in the Lafond area. Came to see the quarter he had filed and went back the next day with stops in Brosseau, Vegreville and Edmonton. Had a job as cook on a surveying crew, this taking him to southern Alberta, in Burdette and south to the Milk River area. On clear days they could see the Rocky Mountains. He notes here that they were living in tents and a storm with strong winds blew the cook-tent over spilling the beans and soup one half hour before supper. Whenever the freighter was late with wood and coal, he burned cow chips in the cook stove.

He came back to his homestead stopping in Duvernay for three days. He thought of letting the homestead go as there were too many stones. Perseverance counts as to this day, Jules, the youngest of his two sons still farms it, and makes his home there.

After building a shack and digging a well he decided, in April 1910, to go back on the surveying crew, this time stopping at Athabaska Landing and north to the Fort McMurray area, as far as Fort Mackay. The following year he went to Lodgepole and Brazeau area.

In 1915 he returned to his natal town of L'Islet and married a former neighbor and school friend, Marie Anna Belanger (1883-1969) on June 15. They came back to the homestead where they raised a family of two boys and four girls:

Jeannette — born 1916, married Laurent Robinson in 1937, had 14 children (3 are deceased). She passed away in June 1979.

Jean-Charles — born 1918, married Helen Gill in 1941, has 5 children, lives in St. Paul.

Juliette — born 1920, married Philip Robinson in 1944, has 8 children, lives in St. Paul.

Juliana — born in 1922, married Wilfrid (Maurice) Desaulniers in 1943, 10 children, lives in St. Paul.

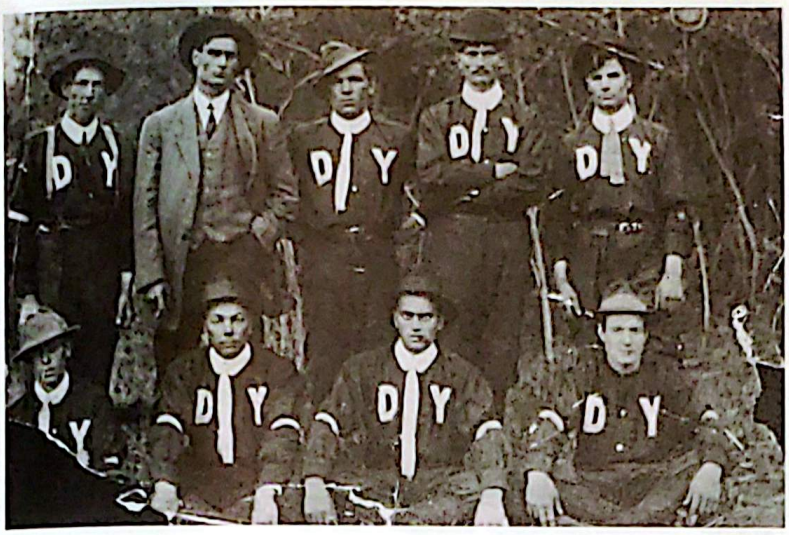
Jules-Bernard — born in 1924, married Fernande Desaulniers in 1948, has 12 children, lives on the original homestead in Lafond.

Josephine — born in 1927, married Pierre Brault in 1946, has 4 children, lives in Lafond.

Mr. Joseph Journault passed away in 1943 and Mrs. Marie Anna Journault died 1969.

Jules, Juliette, Jeannette (Mrs. Laurent Robinson), Mrs. Journault, Josephine, Mr. Journault, Juliana, Jean-Charles.

Joseph-Adolphe Journault, Marie Anna Bélanger married June 15, 1915 L'Islet, P.Q.



The first organized baseball club in this area, in 1913. The players were, back row, left to right; Oscar Ahlstrom, Louis Dechene, Alphonse Roberge, Henri Theroux and George Bourget. Front row, Art Moisin, Adelard Desrosier, Joe Theroux and Euclid Venne.

SPORTS

Picnic Day in Duvernay in 1927.

Kaleland Baseball Team: back row, left to right: Charlie Svekla, Alex Hannockko, Sally Tkachuk, Mike Yerichuk, Nick Mazar. Front row, Nick Wygera, Chris Culshaw, Metro Yerichuk, Myron Tkachuk, Orest Kalancha, Ernest Didier, Charlie Whitford. Bat Boy, age 12, George Olynyk, holding the Eaton Trophy won by the Kaleland Baseball Team (1933) from the Shandro Ball Club.

Left to right: Gifford Hillerud, Arthur Bosse, Wilfred Whitford, Arthur Coutu, Ernest Didier, Raoul Lavallee, Clovis Therien and August Bosse. The Champlain baseball team of 1936.

Enthusiastic Aspirants Flock To Renfrew For Ball School

All sizes and shapes turned out at Renfrew as the first day of the Brooklyn Dodger baseball school opened. Hitting instructions, pointers at the plate and lectures comprised most of the day's activities. Shown above is Scout Charlie Smith helping a group of young pitchers. At left is Ken Miller of Stony Plain, George Pundick of Foisy, and Jack Huff of Edmonton, with Smith on the extreme right.

Left to right, front row: Mike Marcichiw, George Pundick, Bob Bachelet, Bat Boy - Freddie Gorgichuk. Second row: Wm. Melnychuk, Burt Boychuk and Metro Chrapko. Back row: Steve Gorgichuk, Don Ternovoy, Mike Chrapko, Steve Plaska and Tom Eliuk (1946).

Two Hills Eagles Hockey Club. From left to right, front row: Nestor Hryciw, Marshall Dehid, George Pundick, Ni Oneschuk, Eton Tanne, Orest Chrapko. Back row: Bill Meroniuk, Nick Ewanishan, Walter Dowhaniuk, Walter Hryciw, Harry Hryciw. 1950, open air rink.

Father and son team for the Two Hills Eagles. George Pundick, on left, started with Two Hills in 1955 and 25 years later, with son Gary (right) is still going strong.

THE TROFIM (TOM) KOZAK FAMILY

by Ed and Mary Kozak

TROFIM (TOM) KOZAK, born September 20th, 1893, and ANASTASIA JAKOBCHUK, born January 20th, 1894, were married on May 8th, 1910, and lived in Grybowa, Ukraine. In 1926, Father went to France to work, and after six months, returned to the Ukraine. After seeing how prosperous France was, his homeland seemed more bleak than ever, and in March of 1927, he sailed alone to Canada to see if it was all he had heard about from one of his neighbours. He arrived in Halifax, travelled west by train to Vegreville, and then proceeded to Two Hills working here and there. He liked the country. After two years, he decided that this was the area where he would like to settle his family.

Mr. and Mrs. Kozak with John, Victor, Lydia and Walter. (1944)

In 1929 he began trying to get visas for the family, but it took one year to get the papers in order because of his oldest son's handicap. Finally, in August of 1930, Mother and six children (Nida, John, Nina, Mary, Vera and Olga) left for Canada, leaving behind the oldest son, Joachim, with grandparents because he was not well enough to go. Father started homesteading in Brosseau, but when the family arrived, the house was not yet finished. Alex Kabage, one of the neighbours, kindly invited the family to live at his home until winter set in and the house was finished.

The first house had a mud roof until it started raining as much inside as out, and then a board roof was put on. The family lived in the old house until 1940 when the last child was born, and then built a new house near the same site as the old one. In the summer of 1946, Mother, and the children living at home, moved to St. Paul, while Father continued farming the homestead, and Mother sometimes staying with Father on the farm and sometimes with the children while they went to school there so that they wouldn't have to walk the great distance to school from the homestead. In the summer of 1949, the family moved back to the farm and stayed there until 1953, when most of the family moved to Edmonton. Brother John (the oldest son in Canada) continues to farm the old homestead at the present time.

There were many hardships as well as fun times in a large family. Some of the hardships were having to use

John Kozak on the W.D.9, Nick Arychuk on a W.D.6 and Mike Mack on a Model A John Deere breaking soil on the newly acquired Gamache farm in 1945.

coal oil lamps, as there was no electricity; not having any heat in the sleeping quarters in the winter, the only heat coming from the airtight heater in the living room, and the wood stove in the kitchen; walking 4 miles to and from school in the spring and fall. Sometimes in the winter, the children went to school by horse-drawn sleigh, but often walked, and when they got to school, they had to heat the school room. There was always a shortage of clothes and shoes, and those obtained from friends were mostly too large, but thankfully fit for about three years before they were either outgrown or passed on to the next youngest. The boys had to hand-pick rocks and tree roots all summer long, as well as haul water and help with other farm chores. The older girls had the endless task of child rearing, baking bread, gardening, and cleaning, with the only store bought items being sugar, salt and coffee, and Father went to Two Hills to Skakun's General Store to buy these.

The wash was sometimes done down at the North Saskatchewan River and other times water was hauled from the slough 4½ miles away because the well water was too hard and the homemade soap could not produce suds. All the young children slept in the attic. On cold winter nights, sometimes they wore hats to bed and woke up with frost on eyebrows and eyelashes. In the springtime, they shared the attic with young chickens.

There was no midwife available and Father had to help with deliveries at home. It was especially trying and difficult when two sets of twins were born five years apart on the same date in the middle of winter and prematurely. Heat had to be provided by warming bricks in the wood stove, wrapping them in cloth and then putting these near the babies to keep them warm. This, of course, was a 24-hour job, but with Mother's determination and faith in God, and the help of the older daughters, the impossible became possible.

Some of the fun times were making toys and dolls. The whole family went to Two Hills once every summer during the 1940's and each child would get and ice cream cone or popsicle, and a chocolate bar and then walk up and down the streets until Father and Mother were ready to leave.

During the Christmas season, there was caroling at the neighbours' as well as friends and neighbours coming to our home to carol. On Christmas Day, there was

Mrs. Kozak with the girls from L. to R. — Nida, Nina, Mary, Vera, Olga, Lydia and Victoria. In 1954.

Mr. Kozak with the boys, L. to R. — John, Paul, Peter, Ben, Ed, Victor and Walter. In 1954.

always a big feast, and the best Christmas remembered was receiving a $1.00, comb and mirror set. The house was decorated by cutting up crepe paper and stringing it everywhere, securing it with pins and nails.

There were no birthday celebrations.

The boys made some spending money by hunting and trapping furs. I'll never forget the time we trapped a skunk.

For recreation, we had a steep hill by the house and many times someone would slide through the rail fence or land up in the poplar trees. Also, Ralph Steinhauer would clean snow off the pond in his yard where we would enjoy some skating.

In later years, in order to get to town, sometimes hiding in the back seat of the car paid off.

Mother Kozak is still very active and has a nice apartment in Edmonton in a Senior Citizens Home.

Father Kozak passed away on May 3rd, 1967, in Edmonton, after suffering with cancer.

Mike Mack discing with four horses in 1943.

CHILDREN OF TROFIM (TOM) KOZAK AND ANASTASIA KOZAK:

by Ed and Mary Kozak

JOACHIM was born in June, 1912. He married Mary in the Ukraine. They had a son Victor who died at 5 days, and a daughter, Rajka. The daughter lived, but the mother died. He remarried Mary, a widow, during the war, and they have a daughter, Halja. He still lives in the Ukraine.

NIDA, born on June 23, 1914, married Mike Mack on January 21, 1940, and they live in Edmonton. Their children are Richard, Rachel, Florian (deceased), twins Earl and Irene (both deceased), Elvina, Michael and Arlene.

JOHN, born on January 4, 1918, is unmarried, and lives in the Brosseau area.

NINA, born on November 17, 1919, married Nick Arychuk on July 7, 1941, and they live on 40 acres in South Edmonton. Their children are Patricia and Raymond.

MARY, born on June 25, 1922, married William Guzyk on October 25, 1942 and they live on 80 acres near Ardrossan. Their children are Christine, Geraldine and Arnold.

VERA, born on October 16, 1923, married Metro Ternovoy on July 13, 1947, and lives in Edmonton. Their children are Terrance, Myra and Deborah.

Nina and Nick Arychuk's wedding, July 7th, 1941.

Nick Arychuk with Richard Mack in 1942. 1928 International truck which had no brakes and broke all the fences coming down the hill.

OLGA was born on February 19, 1927 and married John Wynychuk on June 10, 1951. They lived on a farm near Glendon until John died on October 16, 1959. She remarried on December 2, 1972 to John White and they live in Edmonton.

PAUL, born on July 1, 1931, married Maxime Fletcher on November 21, 1962 and they live on 40 acres in North Edmonton. Their children are Maurie-Lynn and Kimberly.

PETER, born on February 3, 1933, married Oralee Brown on June 25, 1955 and they live on a quarter section near Fort Saskatchewan. Their children are Randy, Raylene, Kelvin, Willis and Peter.

LYDIA, born on February 3, 1933, married John Melnychuk on August 27, 1955 and they live on a quarter section near Bruderheim. Their children are Wendi and Marlene.

BENJAMIN, born on June 10, 1934, married Nancy Chetek on July 19, 1958 and they live in Wainwright. Their children are Bruce and Tzea.

EDWARD, born on November 10, 1935, married Mary Pinchuk on October 1, 1960 and they live on 40 acres near Spruce Grove. Their children are twins Loretta and Lana, Edward and Steven.

VICTOR, born on February 3, 1938, married Frances Doonanco on January 21, 1961 and they live on 40 acres in North Edmonton. Their children are Pamela, Dee Ann and Donna.

VICTORIA, born on February 3, 1938, married Harold Burma on October 31, 1958 and they live in Edmonton. Their children are Lonnie, Corine, Wayne, Arlen, Marvin, Leanne and Denise.

Champlain School children from grade 1 to 8, Mrs. Melnyk teacher, (1947).

MICAH WALTER, born on February 27, 1940, married Elsie Chetek on June 11, 1960 and they live on 40 acres near Wainwright. Their children are Gregory, Carla and Naomi.

STEFAN KABAGE

by Robert Bachelet

Stefan Kabage (Steve) and his wife Amelya (Annie) were from Orchumdzie, Austria. They were married in 1895.

On May 24, 1905, they sailed from Hamburg, Germany, on the S.S. Albano, with their children: Wasilena (Lena), 10 years old; Enfrosina (Rosie), aged 8 years, Iwan (John) 7 years old; Ilia (Alex) aged 3; Paraska (Pearl) six months old. They arrived in Halifax, Canada, on June 9, 1905. By train they travelled to Strathcona, Alberta. From there they went to Victoria, a community near Bellis, Alberta, where they stayed with a Nick-olaichuk family for one year. He walked around the country looking for land for 6 months. He chose to Homestead SW¼ 12-56-12-W4th.

Steve Kabage bought a wagon and Nick Plaska had horses so, in 1906, they came to the chosen land, in Brosseau. During the next few years there was nothing to harvest, so, Steve would leave home to work in Edmonton, coming home only during haying-time. On this farm two more boys were born; Mike and Bill.

Mr. Steve Kabage and his wife Mary (Hohul).

Seated is Steve Kabage. Back row, left to right - Anne Cherniwchan, Rozina Cherniwchan, and Mrs. Steve (Anne) Kabage in 1950.

Back row, left to right, Mrs. Wasyl Cherniwchan and Mrs. Bodnar. Seated is Mrs. Anna Kabage. Little girl is Anne Cherniwchan.

In 1942 Mr. & Mrs. Steve Kabage moved to Two Hills and their son, Bill, took over the farm, which he later sold to Fred Plaska.

Steve Kabage passed away April 1, 1951 and Annie September 21, 1953. Both are interred in the Mamaestie Cemetery of Brosseau, Alberta.

Lena Kabage married Peter Hnatiuk, lives in Edmonton, has six children; John, Bill, Alex, Bert, Mary and Nancy.

Rosie, married Bill Cherniechan, lives in St. Paul, has one daughter, Anne.

John, died 1905 in Victoria, near Bellis, shortly after arrival in Canada.

Alex, married Mary Orlecki, lives in Two Hills, has two daughters, Phyllis and Thelma.

Pearl, married Fred Bodnar, lives in St. Paul, has three children; Dorothy, Dave and Dolly.

Mike, died.

Bill, married Nancy McCullough, lives in Slave Lake, Alberta, has four children; Charlie, Laurette, Marlene, Don, and lost two sons, Rod and Reese.

Left to right: Anne Drapaka, Mrs. Alex Kabage, Mrs. Frozins Cherniwchan in 1979.

MEMOIRS OF A COWBOY

by Alex Kabage

Long ago, in the late 1910's and early 1920's, horses were put to pasture on Saddle Lake Reserve, which was kept open and unfarmed. Little corrals were built to store the stacks of hay cut by the Natives during the haying season every summer. These were scattered throughout the reserve.

Dick and Walter Hughston ran a herd of about 1000 head of horses; Dick Fife had about 100; Jack Forbes 150; and the Brosseau brothers about 650. Every year, after spring work, in May or early June, they would have drivers Leo Johnston, Sandy Ferguson, Jack Forbes, John and young George Emes and myself, round up the horses. Each lot was placed in the little hay-corrals until we had collected a large herd, which was then driven to a corral at the foot of the hill, at the south-east corner of NE¼ 10-56-12-W4th. There they were cut out, each owner claiming his own, while any left over were driven back to the reserve.

Alex Kabage on his horse, John Duke, who helped move cattle to Ashmont or Vegreville to load onto the railroad for Jack Cummings, Peter Charron, Rosenberg, and Spencer who were all stockbuyers. After they made up a herd for shipment they would hire help to move it to the railroad, usually in August or September, 1920.

This round-up lasted approximately three weeks. It was a lot of fun as well as a lot of work. Some of the drivers would stop at friends whenever possible. Leo and I would go to Gagnon's. At times we would sleep in the bush, under the stars, using our horse-blankets and slickers as blankets.

Young John Forbes, one year, was in charge of the chuck-wagon, bringing food to the drivers. One time we came to our meeting-place for a meal, but John was not there. His father became worried and sent us to look for John and we found him feeding a group of Indians. Luckily there was enough left for hungry cowboys.

Sometimes, when camping, getting water was a problem. We could find some in springs, sloughs, Duck Lake, or, when close enough we got some at Mr. Batoche or Large's. One evening, Leo and I were ready to camp and needed water to make tea. Leo told me to get some from the slough nearby, where cattle had been watering and which gave an offensive odor. According to Leo, this would disappear when the water was boiled. On the contrary, we could not even bring our tea to our mouths.

I also went on cattle drives. Buyers would collect a herd of cattle, usually about 200 head, and would hire cowboys to drive it to Vegreville or Mundare. One time John Plaska, Steve N. Plaska and I were to bring one to Vegreville for Mr. Schneider. We were told to drive it as far as half-way (Warwick) where there were big corrals on the Berlinguette ranch, and were to keep the cattle there overnight, while he went on to Vegreville to make arrangements for shipping. He was to come to the ranch and watch the herd during the night.

Next morning, when we awoke, Mr. Schneider was not there. Neither was the herd. It had broken out during the night and was on its way back home. Immediately we took off to round up the escapees.

Meanwhile, Mr. Schneider, had caught up to us. He explained that as he was coming the previous night, the "Devil" made him turn around and go back to town. In fact, while he was in Vegreville, he became involved in a poker game and lost everything, including the herd. He hired two more cowboys and had them bring half the herd to Vegreville, while we were to go to Mundare with the other half. There we were paid by cheque, a N.S.F. one. I still have mine!

Another time we were driving a herd along the river. We came to a deposit of quicksand. Most of the cattle managed to get out, but one wild cow was mired. With a lariat, we were able to lasso her, and pull her until she got her footing. Alas, the ring on the lariat cut the rope and she took off after me. Never did I get astride my horse so fast!

I can tell many more tales of drives and drivers. Most fun was had with Leo Johnston, who could always see the humorous side of every adventure, even dangerous episodes.

ALEX KABAGE

by Bob Bachelet

Alex Kabage was born in Austria and came to Canada in 1905. He lived with his parents on the homestead SW¼ 12-56-12-W4th.

In 1920 Alex went drilling wells with Russ, Bill, Roy Macdonald from Young, Saskatchewan. This lasted for six years. In 1923 he purchased NE¼ 16-56-12-W4th

from Mrs. Johns who had gone back to England and left it for sale with Booth & Morrow, lawyers from Fort Saskatchewan. During the summer and harvest he also worked for Joe and Johnnie Brosseau.

Alex was a boxer in the light-heavyweight class. Frank Plouffe, who lived on SW¼ 25-56-12-W4th, was his first trainer, during the twenties. His first fight was against Charlie Prenevost, whom he knocked out in the eighth round of a twelve-round scheduled fight.

TEN ROUND BOXING BOUT

JIMMY CAMERON vs ALEX KABAGE

TWO HILLS

SATURDAY, MAY 17 AT 8.30

Ring-side Seats $1.50 Plus Tax

His record: Versus Dixie Kid .. KO in 1st round
Versus tug Wilson (Drumheller) KO in 8th round
Versus Frank Makotah, in St. Paul unanimous decision
Versus Benny Tate ..... decision
Versus Spike Bulger in Vegreville unanimous decision
Versus Jimmy Cameron (Edmonton in Two Hills, ... decision
Northwest Kid .... KO in 4th round
Dodging Kid (Calgary) .. KO in 2nd round
Bill Haperoft was the trainer.

Alex also met Sammy Noel three times: 1st time in St. Paul a win for Alex; 2nd time lost by a foul; 3rd time in Bonnyville, unanimous decision. Alex lost to Phil Kirkham who later became Western Canada champion.

Alex once fought a woman at the St. Paul Exhibition. She was challenging any one in the crowd who was her size to a bout. His friends convinced him to fight her. She took a swing at Alex but he ducked to the side and she connected with the referee who was knocked out, ending the fight with no one the winner.

In the mid-thirties Alex refereed a fight between George Verenka of St. Paul versus Cyclone Kid (Taylor), at which time this Cyclone Kid died as a result of the bout. Dr. Yak from Vegreville attended Taylor but could not revive him. No other mishaps occurred in all the other bouts Alex refereed.

On May 6, 1933 Alex married Mary Orlecki at the Luzan Church with Reverend Father Chrystawka officiating. Then he became a full-time farmer. Alex and Mary have two girls. Phyllis married Ed Skakun and Thelma married George Pundick. They have two grand-children: Gary and Barbara.

Riding bucking horses at Saddle Lake Stampede in 1928. Note the size of coral.

Alex and his father-in-law used to pasture their cattle on Saddle Lake Reserve. They would put a bell on a cow to make it easier to find the herd. One time after belling the cow the rope got wrapped around Alex's ankles and the cow dragged him for about 1000 feet. When Alex got disentangled he did not have much clothing left.

Once, when coming home at midnight in a Model T with Sylver Orlecki, Paul Archiniuk, Annie Archiniuk and John Plaska they tipped over by the St. Laurent School. All were knocked out except Alex who thought they were all dead. He sat on the side of the road and began to cry. However, they all came to and Alex was a relieved man. They had to walk the rest of the way home because two of the wooden wheels gave in and the windshield was broken.

One fall Alex was riding his horse, Shadow, on the reserve. While crossing a creek he leaned over to pick up a buddy's cap which had fallen off. This threw his horse off balance and both fell into the creek with Alex under the horse. There were no injuries but Alex had the chills for awhile.

In 1965, in partnership with Bob Bachelet, Alex bought a Palomino stallion for $1500 from Mrs. Bonners of Sylvan Lake, Alberta. This horse still has many good offspring in this area. On the horse is Gary Pundick, Alex's grandson.

Leo and his Barb Wire Stretchers an old time Brosseau orchestra of the early twenties. Top row: from the left — Leo Johnston, Bill Ternovoy; Bottom row: from left — Roger Grenier, Pat Beauregard.

This horse, Shadow, was a purebred Standard bred stallion. He was later sold to Maurice Lavallee who raced him in Saddle Lake, St. Paul and Vegreville in saddle racing. Shadow never lost a race and later was barred from races because he could not be beaten.

Mary also had her share of experiences and problems. One fall she was watering the cows on a slough, when a calf fell through the ice. She was fast enough to grab him by the leg. Exercising her lungs to the fullest, she called to Alex for help. He came running and managed to rescue the culprit from a watery grave.

Thelma, Phillis, Alex and Mary Kabage and grand-children Gary and Barbara.

RAYMOND KURASH

by Marilyn Kurash

KURASH, RAYMOND — came from Myrnam — Beauvallon District

Mother — Jennie Yarmuch

Father — John Kurash

(both from Derwent)

Raymond was born at Myrnam, Alta. Mother's and father's parents settled at Derwent.

KURASH, MARILYN — came from Derwent

Mother — Olga Mithrush

Father — Mike Kwasnycia

Mother's family the Mithrush's settled on a homestead at Derwent. Father came to Canada later. (2 children).

KURASH, CHEVON (daughter) presently attends University.

Ray and Marilyn Kurask in 1979.

KURASH, ALISON (daughter) presently attends Two Hills High

We moved to Duvernay in July, 1965 from Two Hills after 4 years there. Raymond worked at the Chemical Plant at Duvernay from July, 1958 (married in 1960) to March, 1971. Then worked at Plain Lake Gas Plant and is still there. Marilyn worked at the Bank of Nova Scotia for 4 years (1958-1960) until married, then worked at the Treasury Branch in Two Hills for almost 1 year. Then stayed home and raised 2 daughters and is now working at the Treasury Branch for the last two years.

Chevon and Alison Kurash when they were 7 & 5 years old.

MRS. MARGARET KROCKMAL

by Margaret Krockmal

My husband's parents, Leslie and Eva Krockmal, came to Canada from Galicia in 1907 and settled at Stubno, north of Innisfree, Alberta.

My parents, Paul and Helen Strychun, came from Galicia, too. In 1900 they settled in Peno, which is north-west of Lamont, Alberta. When I was two years old they moved to Naughton Glen, south of what is now Morecambe. When seventeen years of age I married Walter Krockmal, in 1928. It was a hard start. We rented land and Walter did wood-sawing and grain-crushing in the wintertime, and land breaking in the summer, besides his farming.

Our home was on different farms south of Morecambe. In 1938 we moved to Lafond where we bought a farm, from Florien Theroux, which had previously belonged to Edmond Robinson, the owner of the Lafond Store. We left our old Waterloo threshing machine behind. Its wooden frame was well worn out. Next fall Walter could not make payments to Mr. Drouin so the new threshing machine was seized. That year we had a bumper crop — the first good crop after the very weed-infested land had been summer-fallowed and worked. By the time we found someone to thresh it snow fell and it was snowed under. Walter took a bob-sleigh and extended it to the width of his 2-ton truck, hooked it to the back of the truck and went to bring back the deserted nearly rotten machine. He hired Mr. Gulka, a good carpetner, and turned my kitchen into a carpenter shop. With a family of eight, an extra man and neighbors dropping in to see how the remodelling was coming along, it was an interesting winter. By the time spring came, the machine was ready and, to the surprise of many, it worked. The crop was threshed but the mice, rabbits and prairie-chickens had taken their share.

A few days before threshing was to start, Walter, while butchering a pig stuck a knife into his groin and luckily missed the main blood-vessel or else he would have bled to death.

In 1933, we moved on Philip Schmillar's place, 4 miles south of Morecambe. This was four days after Einar Johnson, the elevator man, had been brutally chopped on the back and head with an axe. It was found in a water-tank but the murderer was at large. No one knew who he was or where he was. All sorts of stories were going around such as: a stranger was seen here or there; or some stranger was seen lingering around a place; or, a stranger was seen entering a house when no one was around. Everyone was afraid! When anyone went out at night it was always in groups.

This was our first night in the new place and, we were tired after the move, so we retired early. We no sooner got to bed when we heard the door knob turning slowly, but the door was locked. Then the storm door was slammed. In this house was another room which had windows, no door or floor-only an open cellar. Once again we could hear bang, bang, bang! It seemd to be coming from that room. We thought sure it must be the murderer trying to enter the house through a window. The banging kept on until three in the morning while Walter and I took turns staying awake.

Finally morning came! When we opened the door a broom fell into the house. When Walter went out he saw a well-contented horse standing by the chop-bin which had been filled the night before. He had kept banging the door of the bin with his hoof until he broke the door.

The other nocturnal intrusion was later explained. Three neighbors had come to visit the new arrivals in their home. Finding the house in darkness they decided to play a trick and put a broom between the doors so that it would fall into the house when the door was opened in the morning. As the broom was being set one of the men said, "What if Walter has a gun and shoots us! "They took off slamming the door as they left.

It was Christmas-time and a concert was being held at the Chesterville School. The parents were all gathered to see the children present a program that had taken a lot of preparation, effort and time. In the middle of the concert a young neighbor of ours had problems. His wife was due to have their fourth child. It was a very cold night. We were the only ones who had a truck and we were 16 miles from the hospital. The young man put his wife and 3 small children in a sleigh and came to our place. Since we were at the school he left his wife at our house and raced to the school to get Walter. Leaving our children for someone else to take home after the concert, we went home with the worried husband. There, the labor pains were so close that we knew it was not wise to take the wife into the cold, old truck to the hospital. Her baby came and, for a week, I had my seven children and their three with the mother and the wee tyke, as well as Daddy coming over for his two meals. Two days before Christmas the family of six went home. I was worn out but glad that all was well with the mother and baby. I was also paid $18.00 for room and board for seven days. Those were the days!

Another time it had rained for a week and Walter went to visit with his friends in Morecambe. Being Friday I decided to do the floors and dusting, and close the livng-room and our bedroom so that they would be nice for Sunday.

Our house was near the road which went from south to north. As roads were not gravelled they became very muddy during storms. It was uphill from both sides and the ditches were deep. Travellers were always getting stuck which meant we had to pull them out.

That night, I decided to sleep upstairs with the children. At some time during the night I was awakened by the roar of a motor and thought that someone must be in the ditch. Walter was away; our oldest boy was too young to drive the tractor and I wouldn't want to, so I got up and locked the door. No one knocked at the door; nor did anyone ask for help.

Next morning, I got up and looked out of the window. On the well was the water pail with the dipper in it. Strange! I never left the pail out there. Coming

downstairs I noticed big, muddy tracks across the kitchen floor, into the living-room and bedroom. When Walter came home I told him I had locked the door after an intruder had come and gone. He had a good laugh.

Later this incident was clarified. Our neighbor was coming from Edmonton and just before he reached our house his radiator steamed out in the hard pull up the hill, in the mud. He knocked at the door, no one answered so he went in, took the pail and filled his radiator. This was the roar I had heard as he went up that hill.

There were also some angels of mercy. One year I needed comforters or blankets as our house was so very cold. One sunday afternoon as I sat at my kitchen window watching the rain and perhaps wondering why my life was as it was, I saw someone coming down the road in a Bennett wagon and turning into our gate. It was my angel of mercy in the person of Mrs. Dmytro Sherstan who believed in giving her tenth to the Lord and also Christ's words: "If you give to someone in need you give to me." They had sheared their sheep and brought me two big farmers' bags full of new wool. Does God provide? Yes, He does. I hadn't told anyone I needed wool but God knew my need and met it through someone I did not know too well.

When life looked brighter Walter took sick, and we were forced to move to town because of his need for frequent medication. This was in 1960, and after three years he passed away in 1963 at 56 years of age.

I rented a house from Albert Joly for 15 years and, in 1978 moved into Heritage Homes where I now reside.

My family of eight are all married and doing well for which I thank God: Ed and Joe, St. Paul; Lily Logozar, Foisy; Ruth Hull, St. Paul; Shirley Braconnier, Three Hills, Alberta; Madelien Twerdy, St. Paul; Walter at Prince George and Linda Fedoruk, Brosseau. I lost a 21-day old baby in 1955 and my son-in-law in November 14, 1979.

I had a lot of hardship but I praise the Lord for His goodness in it all. Also there was joy and happiness as the years went by. I am grateful to live in a country as ours and for the neighbors who were so kind to me through all these years and I love them all.

Mike, Steve, Nick and Fatima Jacura, Rosie and Dorothy and Lucy.

Eli Pawliuk's steam threshing outfit at Kaleland in 1918 - a Case Model.

NICK & FATIMA JACURA

by Mary Jacura

Mr. and Mrs. Nick Jacura came to the Foisy district in 1924 where they farmed until 1948; then they moved to Edmonton.

They had 2 sons and 3 daughters.

Mike ..... St. Paul.
Andrew ..... Edmonton
Rose Kowalchuk ..... Edmonton
Dorothy Purchki ..... Lamont
Lucy Leonty ..... Myrnam

There are 14 grandchildren, and 17 great grandchildren. Nick passed away at the age of 66 in 1966 and son Andrew passed away in 1978 at the age of 49 years. Mrs. Jacura lives at Myrnam.

Son Mike bought his Dad's farm, he farms and works at the St. Paul RCMP barracks as a guard. His wife Mary is a clerk in the St. Paul Saans store.

Mike and Mary were married in 1941, they have 4 daughters and 1 son.

Victoria Hebert ..... St. Vincent
Rita Renauld ..... St. Brides
Barbara Sydora ..... Gibbons
Valerie Sydora ..... St. Brides
Roy Garvin.

LIFE OF DMYTRO KUPCHENKO IN HIS EARLY YEARS

by Kate Pundick

Dmytro came from the Ukraine in 1901 with his mother Annie, his stepfather Nick Orlesky, one half-brother Sylvester, two step-brothers, George and John, two step-sisters, Ruth and Martha. His brother John and stepbrother Steve were left behind because they were old enough to serve in the army. After their time was over, they came to Canada.

He came from the town of Barahmet in the county of Chernovich. After a journey of three months, they

From left to right, back row - Bill, Dmytro Kupchenko, Mrs. K. Metro, Grandma Kupchenko. Front row - Annie, Josephine and Kate.

finally landed in Canada. Then they took the train to Edmonton. There Dmytro bought a horse and his uncle Myron Mandryk did likewise and then they travelled together to Vegreville to face a life of pioneering.

They farmed in that district for a few years. Next they bought a livery barn in the town. Later they sold the barn, bought a farm south-east of Duvernay and moved there.

In Feb. 1916, Dmytro married Rosie (Frozina) Goroniuk. She came from the Ukraine village Tuporovich, county Chernovich with her parents, John and Mary Goroniuk, her brother Metro and sister Katrina. They had taken the train to Edmonton where they were met by Mr. Veluchka. They settled in the Shandro district and soon had a small hut built for a home.

Dmytro and Rosie moved to Luzan where they bought a homestead NW¼-25-55-11. It was heavily bushed and they had to clear the land by hand. Their first two room house was built from logs and plastered with straw and mud; the roof was covered with sod.

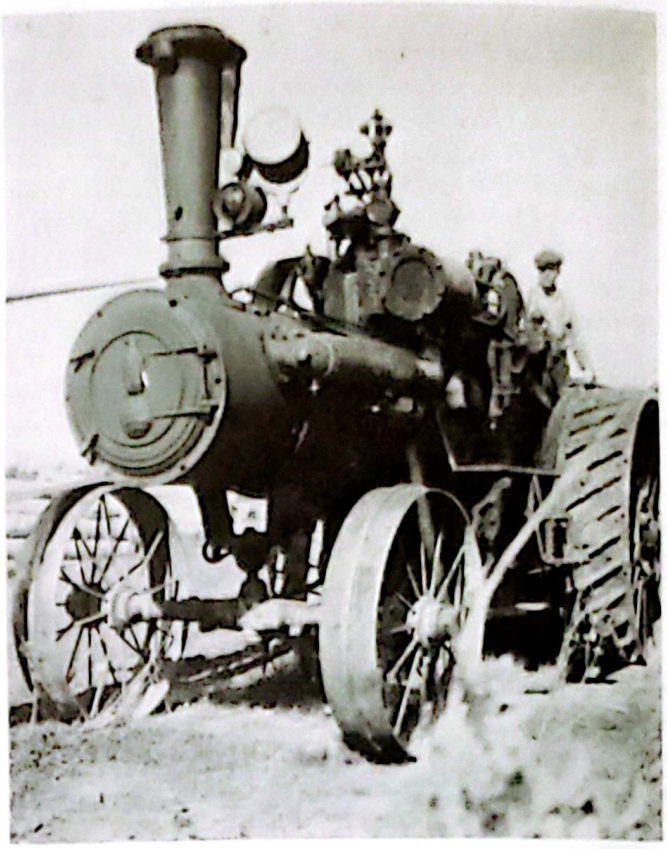
In 1916, it was with pride that he bought his first car, a Model T Ford. In 1918, he acquired his Case steam engine and threshing machine. He used to thresh for people from early fall till Christmas. His wife, with the help of a hired girl, had to put all the grain in stacks and plough the field.

When the dry years came, Dmytro had to buy straw from off the roofs of the buildings that were covered, to feed the cattle because no fresh straw or hay was available. When the payment came due for his steam engine, he had to sell his thirty head of cattle to pay his debt.

In later years he built himself a sawmill which was driven by the steamer. People used to bring logs in during the winter and these would be sawed into boards in the spring.

Our school was constructed in 1924; the people named it Rannock and for thirty-nine years Dmytro was trustee on its school board. We had 3½ miles to walk and in winter time, it was cold.

The pupils always looked forward to the Christmas concerts because they were always so much fun. We had to practice for weeks before, getting costumes ready and



Dmytro Kupchenko's Steam Engine still in prime condition, 1980.

by the time that special night rolled around the excitement was at a high pitch, and of course we just had to put on an extra good show because our parents were in the crowd and they of course were puffed up with pride that their offsprings were on stage. One year we had the most beautiful Christmas concert, one that stands out in my memory in a very special way. Mr. John Buk was the teacher who stayed there the longest.

Time marches on and improvements are made. In 1928, he bought a McCormack tractor and an Avery threshing machine with which he did local custom work. One place was John Brosseau's. Later he bought another quarter of land from the Hudson Bay Co.

The Kupchenko family attended the Luzan church. On Aug. 2nd, a special Ukrainian holiday, we started our

Sawmill being operated by Dmytro Kupchenko and Walter Pauluski.

day by attending mass; afterwards the church people invited the parishioners to their homes to partake of all kinds of delicious food. Now the school has become a hall and that is where we have our entertainment.

We used to pick saskatoons, strawberries, high bush cranberries, raspberries and mushrooms. Mother used to remake clothes for the children from their old clothes.

Dmytro and Rosie were blessed with eight children. Their first son Nick died when he was three months old. The four daughters are: Kate, married to John Pundick; Annie, married to Metro Logozar and Josephine, a registered nurse, married to Al Richardson. The fourth daughter Diane, married to Metro Holinski. The three sons namely: William (Bill) passed away in 1975 - was married to Elsie Woloschuk; Metro, married Mary Bereska; Walter, married Ollie Pawlew. He is a Pharmacist in Edmonton, and their small daughter lives with them at home. They have eighteen grandchildren and thirteen great-grandchildren.

MR. AND MRS. METRO KUPCHENKO (nee Marie Bereska)

by Mary Kupchanko

Marie was born November 29, 1930. Attended Mamaestie and Chesterville School. She will never forget the bad encounter she had, her last year of school at Chesterville. When Mr. Melenchuk dismissed school for the day Marie hitched up the horse "Beauty" to the cutter and started for home with some passengers, namely Olga Harasym, Mary Skawronski, Orest Babuik and William Popowich. But there were a few other children that decided to have a toboggan ride down the hill before they go home. That hill led to the road where Beauty was with all the passengers. As those children came flying down the hill, they scared the daylight out of Beauty. She jumped in the ditch which was bumpy muskeg and spruce, going full speed when the front of the cutter hit head on to one of the frozen bumps. The cutter broke loose, leaving Marie and Mary Skawronski flying to the front of the shafts a bit shaken up, while the smaller children just fell on the floor of the cutter, nicely cuddled in the quilts. By the time they got up from the snow and shook themselves off, Beauty was long gone, so they all started walking home. After walking about a mile they met Miss Ivy Chester coming towards them on her horse leading Beauty who galloped all the way to Mr. Chesters kitchen window and stopped. There was no use to go back to the cutter as it was too damaged to come home with it. Marie just led Beauty home, quite scared about what her Dad would say. Her Dad thought he'll smarten Beauty up by taking a load of wheat to Two Hills next day which was eighteen miles. That didn't help, because after the cutter was fixed, Marie drove Beauty to school again. This time there was no toboggan to scare her, she started running away again on the way to school. Thanks to a handy snow drift which she steered Beauty into to stop her. From there Poor Marie had to lead her all the way to school and back, because she was scared not to get the cutter broken again, not to mention the danger. That was the last time she used a cutter to school. Horse back or walking was safer, though it was four miles to walk.

Mr. & Mrs. Metro Kupchenko on their 25th. wedding anniversary, with son Dean.

Mr. & Mrs. Dmytro Kupchenko taken Nov. 14, 1978 on Dean's 11th birthday.

Metro Kupchenko, son of Mr. & Mrs. Dmytro Kupchenko (nee Rosie Goroniuk) attended school at Rannock and Luzan, then helped his dad on the farm. He went to Lafond shows with his neighbors Mr. Bill Warren and Mr. Mike Harasym, on horse back in winter when the river was frozen, and Musidora and Rannock dances for entertainment.

Metro and Marie met at Mr. & Mrs. Nick Babuiks' (nee Ann Logozar) wedding which was held at Mr. & Mrs. Mike Logozars farm yard July 27, 1947. Metro took Marie home from the wedding and since then were going steady, well almost steady. Metro seemed to get a flat tire on his dads car almost every time he used it to go see Marie, so he used a new Farmal M tractor once or twice.

In winter he went on horse back or walked across the river. It was only two miles across the river in winter, when

July 27, 1950. Left to right: Bill Popowich, Walter Kupchenko, Orest Kupchenko, Mr. and Mrs. Metro Kupchenko, (nee Marie Bereska), Diane Kupchenko, Lillian Chrapko, Olga Arychuk, Olga Harasym. Brosseau Greek Orthodox Church in background.

summer came along it was nineteen miles around on the bridge. "They kind of hoped it was winter all the time!" Guess we would have starved by now!

They got married exactly three years later on July 27, 1950. Had a small family wedding at both parents place then a wedding dance at Brosseau Hall.

Farmed with Metros' parents for ten years. In May 1960 they moved to NE-20-55-11 better known as Mr. Bill Harasyms' place. Raised Polled Herefords and eventually bought more land. Were in partnership in Griesbach Drugs in Edmonton 1962-1968, hotel partnership in Pincher Creek 1972-1973, McKenzie Inn and North Gate Motor Inn partnership in Fort St. John, B.C. 1973-1976. At the present time they still farm the same place and have a share in the McKenzie Inn.

They have one boy Metro Dean, born November 14, 1967. Dean is in grade seven now and says that he wants to be a farmer some day.

1927: Back row: Left to right; Mr. John Bereska, & Mrs. Wasyl Popowich. Front row: Left to right; Mrs. Mary Bereska & her mother Mrs. Rita Popowich.

(BILL) KOKOTAILO

Bill, son of Tom and Vera Kokotailo, was born, on the farm, in Willingdon, on October 20, 1927. He started schoc! in 1934, and had Mrs. Berry as teacher until 1943, when he attended Willingdon High School with Mr. George Kolataluk as principal, finishing Grade 12.

After school he worked for his father on the farm, leaving to go logging at Gibson's Landing, Campbell River; Knights' Inelt, Chase; Queen Charlotte Islands; Chamos Bay, all in B.C. In Alberta he logged at Lac La Biche and Calling Lake. Bill always worked at falling on a contract basis. In 1950-51 a contract in B.C. was $1.00 per thousand and $1.25 with your own saw. In Alberta the pay was $1.00 to $1.50, per tree, depending on its size.

Bill learned the art of plastering and stuccoing from his uncle, Bill Mascaluk, having plastered all the schools in the County of Two Hills. In 1960 he went into the business on his own.

In 1950 Bill married Pearl Storoschuk from Ispas, Alberta. She was the daughter of Nick and Helen Storoschuk, born on January 3, 1930, at home. In 1937 Pearl started school in Brinsley School, finishing Grade 8 in 1943. She had Mr. Nikolaichuk, George Korpan, Andy Royalski as teachers. After finishing school she worked on the farm with her parents, also stooking and shovelling grain for the neighbors. Her father, Nick Storoschuk, passed away when she was 10 years old, so, she had to help her mother.

On November 6, 1949, Bill and Pearl were married at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church at Boian near Willingdon. They lived on NW 21-56-14-W4th after the wedding and are still there. Bill's parents lived with them until 1960 when they retired in Edmonton.

Their first son, Kenneth Karl, was born July 4, 1950 in Two Hills Hospital. He is now married to Beverly Hyatt from Dewberry and has two boys, Clayton and Corrie.

William and Pearl Kokotailo on their 25th wedding anniversary, November 6, 1974 with the family at home: L to R — Debbie, Carol, Daphne, Pearl; Back row — Kenny, Bill, Tommy and Barry.

A first daughter, Carolyn Pearl was born July 4, 1952 in Two Hills. She has one girl, Vannesa, born 1973.

Debbie Lorette, the second daughter, was born April 19, 1953 in Two Hills. She married Mike Catherwood of Mission B.C. They have one boy, Ryan Thomas, born 1979.

The second son, Barry William, was born March 28, 1956 at the Royal Alex Hospital, Edmonton. He married Judy Douquette and resides in Edmonton. They have one son, Christopher Barry Lee, born July 22, 1977.

A third son, Thomas Brant, was born August 29, 1957 at the Willingdon Mary Immaculate Hospital.

The third daughter, Daphne Dawn was born July 11, 1965 at Two Hills Hospital, with Dr. M.E. Chonko assisting.

In 1968, Bill let his name stand for county councillor for the County of Two Hills, in a field of 2 candidates, winning by one vote on election night, with a recount, next day, giving him a majority of five votes.

Politics were always an interest in the Kokotailo family. Bill's father, Tom, was a municipal councillor for the M.D. of Eagle for 14 years and 10 years on the local school board.

During Bill's 12 years as councillor, there were many business trips. He went to Tulsa, Oklahoma, U.S.A., courtesy of Du-Pont of Canada, to bid on plastic pipe for the County-Owned gas system. Dennis Ursuliak and Robert Bachelet were on this same purchasing venture. That trip saved the county $85,000.00.

In 1978 all the members of the council, along with the secretary Gary Popowich, went on a trip to Cleveland, Ohio, U.S.A. In 1980 they went to see Peoria, Illinois, U.S.A. courtesy of R. Angus Ltd., Caterpillar dealers for Alberta. Also Goderich, Ontario, courtesy of Ferguson Supply dealers for Champion motor graders.

Bill and Pearl are still farming with only one daughter, Daphne, left at home.

JOHN KOKOTILO

by Robt. Bachelet

John Kokotilo was born in 1877 in Toporutz, Bucovina (Europe). He served with the cavalry in Bucovina for 3 years from 1902 to 1905. After his 3 years were up he came to Canada by boat which took about 3 weeks.

John Kokotilo and wife Vera (Kachuck) in 1937.

After landing in Halifax he came by train to Edmonton, where he got a job for one year putting in sewer lines and working on the railroad. He then went to Medicine Hat and worked for one year. While working in Medicine Hat he decided he wanted to go farming so he bought a horse and headed north on horseback looking for a homestead. He settled in the district now known as Shalka in 1907.

In 1908, he met and married Vera Kachuk and together they raised 10 children. Four boys and six girls: Mike, Dora Darda, Mary Kereliuk, Lena Skoryko, George, Katie Morgan, Kathleen Hunchak, Nick, Bill, and Sally Martin.

John Kokotilo lived on the same farm (NE-20-56-13-W4) till his passing in 1941 at the age of 64.

MR. AND MRS. PROKOP KLEM (NEE ELENA HAWALESHKA)

by Nick Klem

Elena Hawaleshka was born on October 28, 1891 in Russ Baneliw Bukovina, Austria. She came to Canada on June 26th, 1906, with her parents Todyr and Katherina Hawaleshka. Elena was 14 years old at the time. She was also accompanied by her brothers and sisters; John, Mary, Alexander, Harry, Pearl and Violet. Like many other people, they were looking for a future in Canada. They sailed from Antwerp on the Montrose vessel and came to Quebec. They all came to Ispas area and homesteaded there. In August 1906, Elena's brother,

Mr. Prokop Kelm when he was 32, with his wife Elena (Hawaleshka) 26. Picture taken in 1917.

George was born in Canada. Her father Todyr Hawaleshka died on June 27, 1927 and her mother, Katherina died on Nov. 13, 1942.

On January 10, 1910, Elena married Prokop Klem at the age of eighteen years. They were married at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church at Shandro. He passed away at a young age, so the children don't know very much about their father's background, but they know he did come from Austria. He passed away in 1948 on May 24 at the age of 38 years.

Mrs. Elena Klem's parents, Todyr and Katherina Hawaleshka, and George when he was 16 years old.

Prokop and Elena had to work hard to get a home built. They got logs cut and started to put this together. For the roof all he could do was plow furrows of dirt and put this on top instead of shingles. They had only a little boxstove to heat the house. The floor was only dirt. When it rained and went through, it was a real mess. In a few months to follow they built an outside oven to bake their bread, pastries and meats too. There were no temperature gauges then, so they judged the heat by just putting their hand in the oven to see if it was hot enough.

Ispas Church built in 1912. Nick Klem when he was 14 years old. His father Prokop Klem, his mother Lena and Katherina Hawaleshka, Lena's mother. Picture taken in 1926.

Nick Klem's 1921 Oil Pull 20-40 H.P. Rumley tractor. Still in running condition in 1980.

They were fortunate enough to have two oxen and one horse so they did some breaking and often after school their son Nick would take water and lunch to his father then his father would ask him to try and see if he could take the job over while he would rest. The first time Nick did not know what time it was and worked till the sun was going down, and the oxen and horse were not wanting to go anymore. They were tired and hungry, like their master behind them. He also helped to cut logs for the Ispas Church and helped to build it too.

They were blessed with one son, Nick who was born on July 11, 1911. He helped his parents and kept his mother till last year; due to ill health his mother had to go to the Eagle Hill Lodge in Willingdon. Nick still farms his parent's land, has a few head of cattle. He also has a lot of old antique things his folks started farming with in 1910. He enjoys reading and visiting neighbors and friends.

NICK LOGOZAR FAMILY

by Lucian Kent (nee Logozar)

Nickholai Logozar, eldest son of Anatee and Annie Logazar, was born on October 10, 1898 at Mamayoustee, Bukoveena, Austria. His great grandfather was a French General whose name was Rogzar but the name was changed. Because of the political turmoil and oppression, the family chose to emigrate to Canada around 1909. His wife Genia, daughter of Andrew and Martha Skakun, was born in the same village on March 29, 1906 and her family too decided to seek freedom. Both families were friends and the Logozars sponsored the Skakuns who arrived in Canada in 1912.

Their memory of the ocean voyage is dim except they do recall fear and alienation because of the language barrier. Genia, age 5, does recall her mother guarding the sacks of dry bread and yogurt which alleviated sea sickness. Little else was understood except following orders — hardship complaints were not accepted.

Originally, the Logozar family settled at Norma, Alberta but the land was poor and lacked firewood so they moved to a homestead 6 miles east and 1 mile north of the Brosseau Post Office which was non-existent. The need for survival was constant and hunger a companion. Being the eldest son, Nick went out working in his early teens, as a farm hand, mill hand, and later on the railroad at Coleman and Drumheller where he gradually learned the English language. Of his boyhood, he recalled one particular incident where he was surrounded by a pack of coyotes while trying to find his father who was cutting wood. As a young man, he said he always carried a dollar in his shoe for it meant a loaf of bread and his feet were his transportation.

Genia's family, after several drastic attempts, finally settled on a homestead on the south side of the North Saskatchewan River, across from the Logozars. Many a mile was walked up and down the huge hills. No pictures or records were kept as these were the least of their concern. All became quite adapt at rowing themselves across the Swift North Saskatchewan.

Like Nick, Genia at a tender age of 12, was out working babysitting or as a field hand for threshing crews holding her own though her hands were raw with blisters. Her goal was a pair of shoes. Her desire for an education was so great that she would sneak away row herself across the river, climb up the hills, to attend the new Mamaestie school (the name derived from the old country village) only to be followed by an irate parent and be punished for she was needed at home. She recalls one time being hired to haul grain to Vegreville, some forty miles across the prairie with nervous horses. On her way back, she lost her way and ended up at Ben's Lake. Her age 13, her pay 3 yards of material.

Nick and Genia's courtship was unique as it meant plenty of hill climbing and river crossings. One night Nick spent hours rowing across only to end up at his starting place. The fog was so thick and current so swift he kept getting turned around.

They married on October 22, 1922 at the Mamaestie church and settled on a CPR quarter, NW3, 56, 11 which Nick had purchased in 1920 and had started the house that still stands. Side by side they cleared the land, dug the roots out, broke the sod with a walking plow. Water was a problem, money was scarce so they decided to dig their own well. Six tries were made. Using a rope and pail Nick would fill the pail with soil and Genia would haul it up. Their food at times was only bread and milk.

In the later twenties, Nick started supplementing the farm income by carpentry and to this day, many farm yards still have buildings erected by him. He also built many a coffin. While he was away Genia ran the farm with the children and snared rabbits which sold 10¢ a pelt. Womens Liberation was in full force as far as work was concerned.

Their 4 children, Maggie, Peter, Olga and Lillian were all born in the original farm house with the assistance of Baba Skakun who was a skillful midwife. She slapped many a child's bottom in the community and practised as far as Redwater. Tragedy struck Maggie at the age of 3 when she contracted polio and epilepsy at the same time that Genia's younger brother Nickonee drowned. Although the doctors diagnosed complete disability, Genia's home therapy of hot baths, oil rubs and exercise enabled Maggie to regain the use of her left hand and foot.

Like all the pioneers, natures fruits were gathered and put to use. Saskatoons, wild cranberry, strawberries, raspberries were plentiful. Rabbits meant meat and pelts. Prairie chickens meant feathers for pillows and quilts and meat. Fish was caught, dried and salted. All meant food for the winters.

Nick was a self-taught man, took an avid interest in world events, read widely and studied the bible thoroughly. He was active in the community, helped build roads, served as a school trustee at Mamaestie while still single, was a founding member and builder of the Foisy Hall built around 1933, where carnivals, dances, weddings and Ukrainian plays were held. He innovated many of the play props. It was depression time and there was a need for diversion.

Genia, being resourceful, was tired of walking so decided one year a car was needed. Not a weed was safe as it was picked, mixed and boiled with chop and fed to the hogs. That fall the hogs became a 1934 Chevrolet, pride of the family.

Because of the atrocities suffered by their people in the homeland both were anti-war, anti-ignorance and detested blind dogmatic suppression. Nick was a steadfast independent thinker and encouraged his children to be open minded.

He was one of the instigators and builders of the Two Hills Municipal Hospital and served on the original board of directors for many years. He was a founding member of the Alberta Wheat Pool. He was a man who planted a seed but never received the recognition of the harvest.

Nickolai & Genia Logozar October 1972 50th Wedding Anniversary

Though material goods were few, the family unit was close and strong. Each child grew and married; Olga to Eugene Vegera from Warwick, Peter to Lily Krochmal from Lafond and Lillian, after a vagabond life settled in Calgary. Olga and Eugene have one son Carl Dwayne and one daughter Sherilynn Eugenie who is married to Dr. Robert Ferguson. They in turn have a daughter Carolyn Dawn (first great grandchild). Peter and Lily have one son Darrell and four daughters, Margaret Jean, Darlene, Karen and Bernadette. Lillian has two adopted sons, Kevin Nicholas and Darin Dean Barter. Lillian was the first of the Logozar family to complete the schooling that her mother dreamed of but her desire to become a geologist was not realized, as women were not accepted in to the geology field.

After Baba Skakun who lived and was cared for by them for 16 years passed away, Nick and Genia decided to retire to Two Hills. Still a builder at heart, Nick at the age of 69 tackled building the house. Both again side by side did most of the work themselves for which they won the Golden Hammer Award in a North American contest.

In 1972 they celebrated their 50th Anniversary and one year later, on November 1, 1973, Nickolai passed away. He was laid to rest at the Two Hills cemetery. Genia still resides in what they considered their dream home.

PETER N. LOGOZAR

by Bob Bachelet

Peter N. Logozar, son of Nick and Genia Logozar (NW¼ 3.56.11.W4th) was born November 27, 1925, at home. He attended Mamaestie School from 1932 until 1940. His teachers were William Cherniawski, Peter Sherstianka, Mr. Kardowski and Metro Nikolaichuk was his last teacher. Peter walked to school in summer, but used a horse in winter, because, then, they were not being used for farm work and so were available.

After finishing school, Pete farmed with his dad. In November 1944 he was called to the Armed Forces, but, being a farm boy, was given an extension of no definite date and was never called again.

In May 1945 Peter acquired his first farm NW¼ and SE¼ 22-56-11-W4th, which he worked with horses. After spring work Peter would go with his father doing carpentering, to supplement his income for the farm. In the winter of 1949-1950 Peter hit the bright lights of St. Paul, working as a bartender in the Lavoie Hotel, owned by Ordonne Leroux, wages were $140.00 less room and board. He roomed at Mr. Diachuk's for $15.00 a month, including laundry. He got his meals free from the Lavoie Cafe, in exchange for filling a 60-gallon barrel of water everyday, from a well one block away.

In the winter of 1950-1951 Peter hit the lumber camps of B.C.: Prince George, Willow River and Hunters' Mills with his buddies, William Sherstianka and Harry Taschuk, skidding logs with horses, and driving the sawdust wagon.

In the spring of 1951 went back to farming. At an auction sale, of Steve Yarmichuk, he bought his first pigs to go into the hog business. He also bought his first new Fargo ½-ton truck for $2800.00 from Paragon Motors (Alex Hannochko) and some farm equipment — a 55 Massey Harris tractor, a 9′ tiller and a 4-bottom plow from St. Paul Sales and Service (Alex Tannas).

In the fall of 1952 he traded his Fargo truck for a Case 28″ threshing machine, with Adam Skakun, for the sum of $2800.00.

In the winter of 1951-1952 Pete was employed by the County of St. Paul to open roads with a snowblower in front of a Massey Harris 55, for $4.00 an hour. He worked for C.H. Whitham Construction while building the Western Chemicals Ltd. at Duvernay, wages of $1.02 an hour.

In the summer of 1954 spent two well earned weeks touring B.C. and the North Western States with Andy Melnychuk, who was sporting a brand new Pontiac. They ended up at the Calgary Stampede.

Back to logging camps for the winter, and with his savings Pete bought a new 1956 Chev car, and that same year he started in cattle. But, the best thing that happened that year was the start of a romance, and the lucky girl was Lily Krochmal. The next 3 years were a little vague, because, being in love you forget everything else. However, he does remember, in December 1958, he attended the Farmers' Union of Alberta convention at the Macdonald Hotel, in Edmonton, with Julien Bachelet and Herb Steinhauer.

On June 20, 1959, Peter married Lily Krockmal of Lafond, Alberta, in the St. Paul United Church, with Rev. A.H. Miller officiating. The reception was in Two Hills, the honeymoon in Banff, Jasper, B.C. and home in time for haying.

Lily Krockmal, daughter of Walter and Margaret Krockmal, was born in Morecambe, Alberta, on August 16, 1931, at home. She attended school at Stony Rapids in 1937, for one year with Miss Bandura. Then her

Changing from the old to the new in 1966. Peter N. Logozar and son on the farm at Foisy.

parents moved to Lafond and she continued her schooling at Chesterville, until Grade 8. The summer of 1945 Lily had no holidays. That year they had a supervisor at school who became sick, so, Miss Hannochko (Alice Melnyk) taught during the summer months to make up the lost time. Other teachers were Miss Pookhay, William Nickolaichuk, Dr. John A. Melenchuk and Mrs. Pickenbaugh. Grades 9 and 10 were taken in Namao, Alberta and Grade 11 in St. Paul. In 1951 Lily went supervising in Sweetborough School for $90.00 per month until May 1952. Then she went to Alberta College, taking night classes while being assistant cook and, during the summer holidays worked at Woodland Dairy, and at a fur shop. After finishing a course of Lab Technician Lily went to work in the St. Paul Hospital, and in the Two Hills Hospital until the summer of 1955. While on her holidays she went to Banff, working at the YMCA as cook. That fall she went to the Prairie Bible Institute at Three Hills, Alberta, and stayed there until her marriage to Pete in 1959.

In 1960 Peter and Lily moved to Foisy on the Laurent Foisy farm (W½ 21-56-11) renting the land — ⅔ for Pete and ⅓ for Laurent. Their first son, Darrell Dean, was born a New Year's baby, January 1, 1962, in the Two Hills Hospital. Peter bought more land, from Laurent Foisy SW¼ 22-56-12-W4th for the price of $3000.00

Their first daughter Margaret-Jean was born August 16, 1963 in Two Hills, the same date as her mother's birthday.

On June of that year a hailstorm flattened Peter's wheat crop 100%, but, after a week when the crop came back, he still threshed 35 bushels an acre of #3 wheat.

In the spring of 1965, Pete purchased W½ 21-56-12-W4th where he now resides, price $10,600.00 and, in the fall, went modern and bought a S.P. Combine Massey Ferguson 410 and a 16′ pull type swather, total price $14,000.00.

A second daughter was born May 21, 1965 in Two Hills — Darlene Lillianne. The Centennial year was another special occasion for Peter and Lily. A third daughter, Karen Georgina, was born September 6, 1967 in Two Hills.

In 1971 Peter undertook to build a new house overlooking Lac Sante and, by Christmas, they were in their new home. To make haying easier he purchased a S.P. bale wagon. New Holland 120-bale capacity, in partnership with his brother-in-law, Leonard Fedoruk.

A fourth daughter Bernadette Eugenia Nicola was born September 15, 1973.

With the high-priced machinery he had, Pete needed shelter for them, so, in 1975, he built a machine shop 50 x 100′, the best investment he made on his farm, cost $13,000.00.

With a labour shortage Peter traded his combine for a bigger one, (Massey-Ferguson 510 gas) and again in 1977 for a diesel machine for fuel economy. That same year he sold SE¼ 22-56-11-W4th to Marshall Tarapaski for Lake development. The next year he bought SW¼ 27-56-11-W4th from Mike Kruse to round out his spread of 722 acres.

Now, Peter and Lily, with the help of 5 children, find farming much easier, at least, until the children leave home to further their education.

L to R — Julien Bachelet, Peter Logozar and Herb Steinhauer in 1958, attending Farmers' Union of Alberta, at the Macdonald Hotel, Edmonton. Sponsored by Champlain F.U.A. Local.

IGNATY LOGOZAR

by Robert Bachelet

On June 10, 1869 Ignaty Rogozar was born in Austria, province of Bukowina. At ten years of age, he lost his mother and was in charge of his brother and sister

Ignaty and Anna Rogozar in front of their home on SW¼ 10-56-11-W4th, Brosseau, in 1945.

until his father remarried. At sixteen Ignaty left home, working on farms until he was twenty-one. Then he was drafted in the Austrian army for three years. Upon discharge, at twenty-four, he met Anna Taschuk and was married on August 17, 1893 in Austria. They lived with the Taschuk family until 1909.

Mr. and Mrs. Ignaty Rogozar with their five children, Nick, Mike, John, George, Bill and Mary (born September 8, 1908 in Bukowina, Austria) left Austria. They embarked on a freighter in Hamburg, Germany and after fourteen days of rough sailing landed at Halifax on June 5, 1909. They chose a freighter because it was cheaper. There was livestock in the bottom of the ship (the hold). On June 7th they left for the West on the train, and, after a trip of ten days, they reached Strathcona, Alberta, arriving on June 10, 1909. Mike Kriklevets, an old friend from their village in Austria, was now living in Hairy Hill. He met the Rogozar family at the train and brought them to his home on the farm. They found a vacant house in Hairy Hill which became their home for the winter of 1909-1910.

In the spring Ignaty filed a homestead in Brosseau on SW¼ 10-56-11-W4th. The family lived in a cave dug in a bank on NE¼ 10-56-11-W4th which belonged to Metro Lakusta, where they lived for a year. In the summer he went to work on the railroad at Clover Bar to make money for provisions and necessities. In the fall he built a log shack on the homestead and moved his family into their home. 1909-1910.

There were new additions to the family: Bill, Jeanne, Metro, Alex.

Ignaty was a farmer, carpenter, a top notch violinist and a musician who also played the flute. He played for many house weddings in the vicinity.

Mr. & Mrs. Ignaty Rogozar moved to Two Hills in 1941, when he was 72 and she was 64. They lived across from the hospital.

On April 21, 1953 Ignaty passed away at the age of 84 and was buried in the Mamaestic Greek Orthodox cemetery, Brosseau. Four years later Anna Rogozar passed away on May 17, 1957 and was buried by her husband.

BILL AND MARY LOGOZAR

by Mary Logozar

Bill was the sixth child to be born to Ignaty and Anna Logozar. He was born in Brosseau on June 27, 1911.

As Bill was reaching school age the parents found it very hard to buy shoes and clothes but went barefoot in the summer time like many other children. They only went to school for 2 months of the year and attended Mamestie school. He started at the age of twelve and stopped at the age of fourteen. Like many others the parents needed the children and as they were reaching their teens they would go to seek work. He went to Streamstown then Marwayne where he found work with an older couple working on a farm. His wages were $15.00 a month and stayed for quite a few summers. In winter he would cut wood and do chores. His intentions were to save money for a farm.

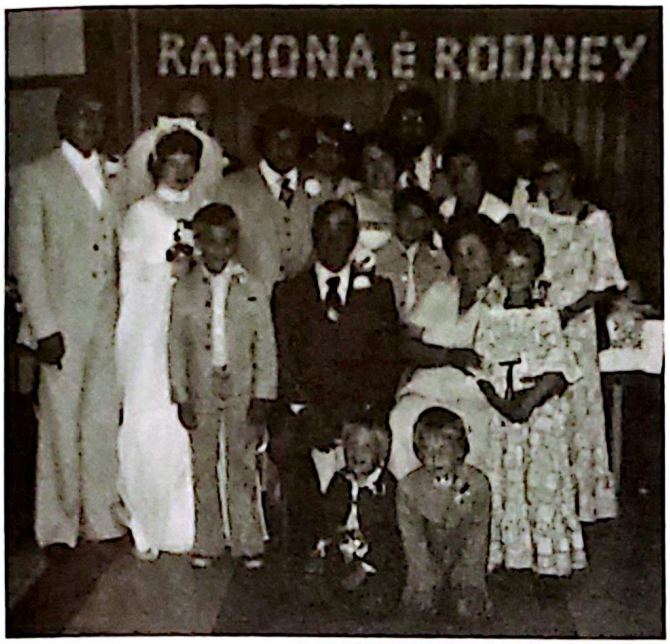
In the year of 1934 the county of St. Paul had land going for sale as people couldn't pay their taxes. He bought 2 quarters at 50¢ an acre, it was cheap but money was scarce. That summer he stayed and started to brush that land and finally got some broken for that summer. It wasn't easy, roots and rocks had to be picked so he could seed it in spring.

Then came the start of building a little log house which of course he had cut while getting the land ready. There too was a big job as he had to plaster the house and for a roof he used dirt. There was no money for shingles or roofing paper.

In the year of 1939 Bill had met a nice girl which he knew would become his wife. Ed Babuik had a house for sale and only wanted $100.00 a fair price as to the ones of today. Bill had no money but to clear 10 acres of land ready to break for that $100.00. Eight horses were used to move the house.

On August 12 of the year 1939 Bill and Mary got married. Mary Woloschuk was the daughter of Paul and Martha Woloschuk. Mary was born on August 1920 at her grandmother's place, Nick Oneschuks and started school at nine years old. She attended Moose school and walked 3½ miles. It wasn't easy, Mary knew no English and her teacher knew no Ukrainian. She went for 5 years to school but being the oldest she had to stay and help her father at home. After they were married Mary helped Bill and plastered the house before winter came.

In 1941, Nov. 11, Rose Marie was born at home, Mrs. Dick Chester being the mid wife. Bill took odd jobs around, working on the road allowances to pay his taxes.



Mr. and Mrs. Bill Logozar with children and grandchildren.

Their third child, a boy, was born in St. Paul. Dr. Decosse attending Alvin came on Sept. 19, 1944. In 1945 Bill built a barn with the help of his brother, John. In the winter of 1947-48 Bill went to work in a coal mine in Cadomin to help build up the farm. In May on the 4th, 1948, being Easter (Ukrainian) Maggie was born in Two-Hills with Dr. Winnitoy assisting. An Easter gift for the family.

Things were looking better he purchased a ½ ton truck. By fall he bought a 10-20 McCornick Deering tractor then traded it for a 1949 D.C. Case. He threshed with his brother Mike for others. Bill rented land from Bill Ternovoy of Foisy. Then in 1952, another son, Daniel, was born in Two Hills Hospital, Dr. Chonko assisting and also for Rodney born on December 15, 1954.

Times started getting better so they decided to build a new home with the help of Metro his brother and neighbors. The children went to Chesteville and walked in the summer. In winter they used a team and cutter or a caboose, (cutter with shelter.) The first 5 years they had only supervision as the teachers were scarce too. In 1957 Maggie started school in Chesterville and shortly after the school burnt down and another one room school was brought in from another locality but a year later the school was centralized with Lafond and the buses were used. Then there were the time when tractors had to pull the bus out of mud holes due to lack of gravel. Bill and Mary had 5 children. Rosemarie married Wally Melnychuck on September 7, 1962. She finished her schooling in Two Hills and graduated there and also worked in St. Paul hospital for a year. They live in Maidstone, Sask. They have a family of four, Melanie, Myron, Marvin, and Melinda. Alvin married Jeannette Journault on Aug. 12, 1967. Alvin didn't like school so he quit and went to work. He is now a truck driver for Co-op and lives in Westlock. They have two boys, Jamie and Jason. Margie married Richard Kropinski on May 17, 1968. Margie graduated from Lafond school and was a nurses aid in St. Paul and also worked for AGT. They have 2 boys, Shawn and Sheldon. Daniel married Patricia Dubois July 29, 1977. He went to school in Lafond then took a mechanics job for awhile then moved to Edmonton and is trucking for Bar-K in Edmonton and out with oil wells. He resides in Edmonton and has 1 son Mark.

Rodney married Romona Lacombe in June 27, 1977. He went to school in Lafond. He finished his high school in St. Paul and worked there for awhile. He is now employed at Two Hills chemical plant. They reside in Two Hills and have 2 girls Jessica and Crystal.

Mary and Bill are still on the farm and slowly retiring. They got the power for better living. Bill and Mary do some ice fishing in the winter which is one of their enjoyable hobbies.

PAUL WOLOSCHUK

Paul came to Canada at the age of seventeen from Schepenge, Austria in 1908. He had heard of the land available in Canada so like many others he took the boat and came up to Halifax. He didn't stay long there and came up to Vegreville. He worked for farmers and worked around different places in the area. Work was available in McBride B.C. so he went and worked on the railroad there for awhile trying to save money to buy land. He came back to Alberta and worked for a farmer. It wasn't long after that he bought Krezon Drapaka's land and farmed for himself in the Ispas district.

He was all by himself, cooking and washing was getting to be too much. It wasn't too long after he moved there that he had met this nice girl at the store while shopping. By now he thought it was enough of this batching. He asked Martha Oneschuk to be his wife, so in the summer of 1918 they were married at Boyane Marie Church. She was the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Nick Oneschuk and came from Beramata.

Mrs. Paul Woloschuk.

Paul Woloschuk.

Paul owned a steel wheeled tractor and a threshing outfit, also did breaking for the people around.

As times were starting to get better his wife's health started failing and in 1940 he lost his wife. Another hardship to cope with and left with seven children the youngest being only two years. As the oldest daughter Mary was married, she took care of her little sister.

After loosing his wife he went to work in the coalmine at Cadomin and rented his land. He was a fireman and got his papers. At the age of 70 he became a boiler man in Two Hills hospital. At the age of 89 he resides on the homestead, still drives to town and stays on his own.

They had seven children two boys, five girls. Mary married Bill Logozar and had five children. William married Anita Svekla, they have three girls. Rose married Alec Mundrusiak, they have five children. Elsie married Bill Kupchenko, they have two children. Rita married Mike Snihur, they have four children. John married Cheela Horta, they have four children. Natalie married Mike Werenka, they have three children.

NICK ONESCHUK

Martha is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Nick Oneschuk of Brosseau. She was born in the old country and came to Canada on July 19, 1905 with her parents.

They were a family of three brothers and one sister. Mrs. Mary Olynik (Oneschuk) and George and Bill of Shepenitz and John of Brosseau.

Martha like all others had to work hard, picking roots and rocks for neighbors to have money and also chores when her father was away from home. She would walk to Duvernay for groceries and as rides were scarce she walked back too.

She remembers when Duvernay was a good size place having three stores, a creamery, and two hotels. She also remembers taking wheat in a pail to exchange for food at the store.

PETER D. LOGOZAR

by Robert Bachelet

Peter Logozar emigrated to Canada with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ignaty Logozar, older brother Nick, younger brothers John and George and sister, Mary (Plaska) from Mamayootsie, Austria, in the spring of 1909. As Peter remembers, the ocean trip was over a week long. The ship they sailed on was a freighter (which was cheaper). Aboard their freighter were cattle on the lower deck and people with children on the upper one. Peter remembers that, once a day, a certain fellow aboard the ship would come down the aisle with a sack on his back from which food was thrown out on the floor; Koshkoval (a sort of cheese) and Tsweebax (like a biscuit). Children and adults would scramble off their seats to pick these up.

Upon arrival in Canada, they entrained from Halifax to Vegreville, where friends of Peter's parents (Kryklevetz) awaited them and hosted them for a short while.

When Peter's father (Ignaty) bought a homestead at Brosseau, there was Mamaestie School, where a teacher was available for two months a year, which Peter was able to attend and complete grade one. At eleven years of age Peter had two fingers blown off while attempting to place a dynamite capsule upon his pencil. (This shiny object was found by Peter on Lacusta's farm. He was unaware of the danger.) Doctor Hardy was in Brosseau at that time and he administered treatment. The rest of the healing process, accompanied with aches and pains, was done at home.

At fifteen years of age Peter remembers walking to a Mr. Hunka's near Vegreville, and working by a threshing machine for 50¢ a day.

At the age of sixteen, Peter, his older brother Nick, and a friend, Mike Archinuk, had to go out working to support themselves, and hoping to earn enough money to bring back home. They walked across country and along railway tracks, where they could occasionally catch on a train, while in slow motion (that was called to beat the train). Their destination was Brooks, Alberta where they could get a job with irrigation. Peter remembers that, while walking along railway tracks, they were chased by Long-Horned cattle. They spent one whole, hungry day hiding in a culvert. Then at sundown the cattle strayed away.

The job with irrigation near the town of Brooks involved a frezno and 4 horses for each of them. The pay was $35.00 a month per person, but they found that kind of work extremely hard so that by the time the month was up, they desperately wanted to quit or get fired. A bright idea crossed their minds and soon smaller collars were placed on larger horses' necks. With the hard pulling and the heat, the horses did collapse and pile up. The three friends did get "TIME" which amounted to $30.00 a piece; $5.00 was deducted from each cheque for careless harnessing.

After a couple of down-hearted jobless days at Brooks, Peter found out that if they applied with Forestry, a free ticket to British Columbia by train was available. Once again the happy three hopped the train and on to a new venture. They entrained to Avola, B.C. where there was a job cutting post rails. After a couple of weeks, cutting with a two-handled saw, they had piles of posts and rails, but some contractor had come along and culled the rails, leaving them only $18.00 worth of good rails. They quit that job and got on with the railroad around Jasper. While there, they found out that they had to be laid off in order to get a free ticket to Edmonton. Peter liked the new job. It was easy work and the pay was good, so after a couple of months he had money hidden under a mattress in the bunk-house where they slept. Peter came home with $200.00 and soon put a down payment on SW¼ 3-56-11 W4 and bought a couple of horses.

Peter and Katie Logozar on their wedding day in 1951; taken at Brosseau at Ignaty Logozar's homestead SW 10-56-11 W4.

Being around home again, he worked for neighbors. He remembers brushing for Metro Pundick, in return he had 20 acres broken. In those days while brushing, the men were often surrounded by packs of coyotes. They used axes to fight them out of the bush.

On November 5, 1925 Peter married Katie Duvernaychuk and together they started a new life on their own farm.

Katie was the second daughter of John and Exteema Duvernaychuk of Luzan, born at home. Katie took her schooling in Luzan, finishing grade 6. After leaving school Katie worked for local farmers, picking roots and rocks for 50¢ a day.

The first house on the farm was well built by Peter, his father and brothers, with Nick as the main carpenter. In the fall of 1926 they had their first crop of wheat from a 20-acre piece of land. Most of that wheat was sold. Some was kept and ground into flour at Ignaty Logozar's place where they was a grinding stone.

In those days working on the land was done with pride, with feelings of being nearer to God. A lot of singing while out in the fields was not unusual. Peter and Katie were of the Orthodox Faith and attended church regularly. Every Sunday the Mamaestie Church was filled with children and people.

During the depression years Peter remembers selling 3 cows for $18.00 with which to buy a wood and coal heater and a single bed and mattress.

In 1933 Peter became the proud owner of his first touring second-hand Chev (cost him $125.00). By this time he had all his land broken, which was 80 acres. He owned a binder and 6 horses. The grain was cut with this binder, stooked and hauled into stacks. Then Mr. Chester, who had a threshing machine, would set up the thresher between the stacks. With a couple of men feeding the threshing machine off the stacks, harvest was done.

In 1939 Peter bought his own threshing machine. (He already had a 15-30 tractor on steel.) He did a lot of custom threshing within the neighborhood for a few years.

At the end of the threshing season there was always the good old time threshing party for the crew, with lots of moonshine for refreshment. Unfortunately, the moonshine factory burned down.

From 1939 to 1951, Peter and Katie operated a little country store on their farm, which was very convenient for the neighbors. They had to go out of that business because too much credit was given out and not collected.

Peter and Katie raised 5 daughters: Mrs. Nick Babiuk (Anne) of Brosseau; Mrs. Paul (Stefania) Robinson of Edmonton; Mrs. Mike (Rose) Bodnar of Foisy; Mrs. Arsene (Lena) Skakun, Kamloops, B.C.; Mrs. Jim (Marlene) Olmstead, Merritt, B.C.

Peter and Katie Logozar with their five daughters: Anne Babiuk, Stefania Robinson, Rose Bodnar, Lena Skakun, Marlene Olmstead, in 1972.

MR. & MRS. ALEX LOGOZAR
(nee Jean Bereska)

by Mary Kupchanko

Jean was born on February 21, 1923. Attended school at Mamaestie. Mr. Alex Logozar, son of Mr. & Mrs. Anaty Logozar of Brosseau also attended Mamaestie School. They didn't seem to know each other till they met at Midway Ball Game one Sunday. They got married June 15, 1941.

June 15, 1941 — Miss Jean Bereska's wedding, leaving for church. Back row, L-R. Alex Popowich, Olga Bereska, John J. Bereska & Annie Wertypora (barely visible), Front row: Ann Bereska, Jean Popowich, Mary Bereska, Jean, John Bereska, Olga Zawalusky, & Mona Hyshka.

Dec. 1978: Family of Mr. and Mrs. Alex Logozar; Back — L.-R. Lesley, Brian, David, Janice and Edmond Foisy, Donald Logozar. Cynthia and Olivia Logozar, Jean and Alex, Michael Logozar, Dellis Foisy, Iris and Sandra Logozar.

1971 Ukrainian dancing. Dellis & Donald Logozar.

Metro Bereska & Alex Logozar about 1948. Alex's log house in background.

Feb. 10 to Feb. 24, 1978 holiday in Hawaii: Mr. & Mrs. Alex Logozar.

Celebrating 25 yrs. of marriage are Mr. & Mrs. Alex Logozar (nee Jean Bereska).

They farmed on Alex's home place SW-10-56-11 and eventually bought more land in the area namely NW-10-56-11, SE-23-56-11, Pt-SE-16-56-11.

Here their two boys and one girl were born. David, born May 17, 1943. Married Miss Olivia Danyluk of Edmonton on July 6, 1964. They have one girl Cynthia and two boys Lesley and Brian. They live on a farm by Andrew. David is trucking.

Donald, born March 18, 1949. Married Miss Iris Slywka of Morecambe on May 9, 1970. They have one girl Sandra and one boy Michael, and live on an acreage by Legal. Donald works for Qualico Developments.

Dellis born February 22, 1958. Married Mr. Edmond Foisy of Lafond on August 14, 1976. They have one girl Janice and one boy Curtis. They are farming by Lafond.

In 1978, due to Alex's ill health they sold their land NW-10-56-11 to Mr. Bill Boychuk and the home quarter to Mr. Alexander Popowich. On October 28, 1978 they moved to St. Paul. Alex died June 13, 1979. Buried at the Greek Orthodox Cemetery at Brosseau. Jean is presently working at St. Paul Co-op and enjoying her grandchildren.

SIFROI LABRECQUE

by Josephine Laflamme

Mr. Sifroi Labrecque was born in the community of Beaumont, Quebec, six miles below Levis in 1857. As a boy, he moved to Lambton, 75 miles to the south.

His father had married twice and had several children by each wife. Eventually, they moved to Michigan, USA. He returned to Canada and worked for a time for the Grand Trunk Railway, on what was called "le Train de Sable" (the train of sand), hauling gravel for ballast on the railway line. It was here that he met Sara D'Aigle. They were married in Sherbrooke P.Q. in 1887, when he was 30 and she 17. Alphonse and Eva were born there. They shuttled between Megantic P.Q. and Quinnesec, Michigan, USA and it was in Quinnesec that the twins, Adolphe and Celia were born. Mrs. Labrecque paralyzed and needed much medical attention so they moved to superior, Michigan and then to Sherbrooke, P.Q.

In 1908 Mr. Labrecque decided he would like to take a homestead. He headed West with Alphonse to Edmonton. They were told that there were homesteads to be had at Frog Lake near St. Paul. They went to Vegreville on the train and by stage to Duvernay where they had to wait three days for the ice on the North Saskatchewan River to clear before they could cross.

Once across they headed north on foot to Lafond. Alphonse stopped at Mr. Charles B. Lafond's house for a drink of water. There, Miss Annette Lafond told him there were homesteads to be had nearby. They went to the land office in Saddle Lake to file.

On foot again, Mr. Labrecque returned to the land he had chosen. On the way he crossed a small creek that was full of fish spawning. He had no spear but, having a hand-saw axe and hammer, he used the saw to stun the fish, enabling him to catch a few for a meal. (This same little creek saw many fishermen, every spring, spearing fish by the tubfuls until recently when this custom was declared illegal, by the Fish and Game wardens.)

Proceeding to the homestead on NW¼ 34-56-10-W4th he chose a home site and built a cabin. It was roofed with poles and covered with sod. He plowed a garden and planted some potatotes and a few vegetables.

Meanwhile Alphonse had gone back to Quebec to get the rest of the family, Eva, Adolphe (nicknamed Duff) and his twin sister Celia who were 10, with his mother. Mr. Labrecque met them in Vegreville with his team of cayuses, Dick and Sally. They loaded their wagon with their belongings and were on their way to the homestead. The road was just a trail and, when the rains came, it became very slippery for the unshod horses. They managed to reach Brosseau. Again it was difficult getting up the muddy banks of the river to the higher ground. As every one, as well as the horses, were tired they camped for the night. During the night it rained again so the family had to take shelter under the wagon. Next day they reached the homestead.

From right — Grandpa Sifroi Labrecque, grandson, Raymond and son, Duff, 1937.

Gradually they improved the homestead and accumulated livestock. After about 15 years he had an auction sale selling everything but keeping the land.

Alphonse had taken a homestead in Lac Bellevue so Mr. & Mrs. Labrecque with Adolphe and Jeannette went to live there. Sifroi built another log house. Three years later he bought a house in Duvernay where Mrs. Labrecque died in 1926, aged 58 and was buried in the Brosseau Cemetery. Then he moved back and forth between Lac Bellevue and Duvernay. In 1939 he finally moved in with his daughter, Mrs. Clark. In 1940 Mr. Labrecque died at the age of 83 years old.

Mr. Labrecque was a herbalist. He concocted remedies for different ailments. From his secret recipes he made a "blood building tonic", a precursor to "Geritol". Another was for feminine ailments used at about the same time as "Lydia E. Pinkham's Compound" and having the same results as "Midol".

Mrs. Josephine Labrecque and grand-daughter Janice, on her birthday in 1976, her 73rd.

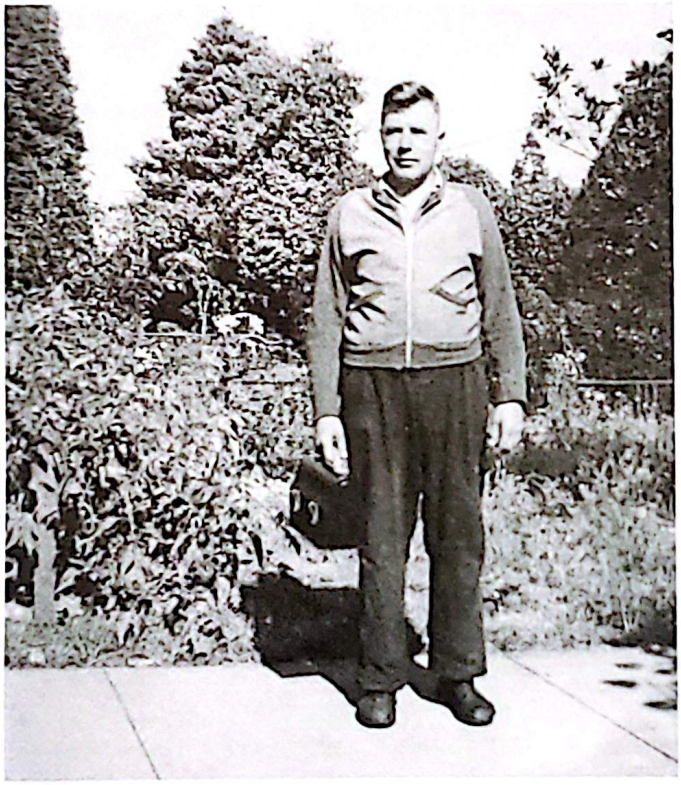
"DUFF" LABRECQUE

by Josephine Labrecque

The twins, Adolphe and Celia, were born May 13, 1898, in Quinnesec Michigan, USA. In 1909 he came to his father's homestead. He did not attend school but was educating himself at home with the help of the Chesterville School teacher. At 15 years of age he went to Iron Mountain, where he had uncles, and attended night school for three years. Then he came back home.

Duff married Josephine Laflamme March 9, 1922. They lived on Laflamme's first homestead for one year and went to another shack on Alphonse Labrecque's to be near Mrs. Labrecque, the invalid mother, who needed help. There they had to drive their older children to Henley School which was at some distance from home. He finally, in 1934 bought a 6-acre acreage, across from the Chesterville School, so that the children would not have to travel.

In 1941 the family moved to Vancouver where Duff went to work at the New-westminster Paper Mill as a janitor while Josephine ran a rooming house. Duff was homesick for Lafond so, after one year, they returned to Chesterville.



Duff Labrecque with his lunch pail during the only time he was not self-employed, 1942.

In 1964 Josephine moved to run a rooming house in St. Paul but Duff stayed in a trailer near his son's house to do the book-keeping and help on the ranch.

Because of failing health he moved to St. Paul with Josephine and died at home June 6, 1975. He was buried in Lafond.

Duff and Josephine had five children:

Pauline (August 25, 1923) married Ken Weavers, lives in Richmond B.C. and has three children (Kenny, Timmy, Cheryl).

Raymond (March 10, 1926) died at one year of age.

Marcel (March 2, 1926) married Betty Woodman, lives in Leduc, Alberta.

Leonora (Lou-March 10) married Henri Martin, lives in St. Paul, and her children (Danny, Donna, deceased, Janice).

Raymond (September 1, 1934) married Georgette Roberge, lives in Lafond and had three children (Alphonse, Rose Marie, deceased, Jacqueline)

There are 11 great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Josephine, now lives in the Heritage Home, St. Paul.

JOSEPH LAFLAMME

by Zelia Robinson

Joseph Laflamme and his wife, nee Eugenie Henley, came to Alberta from Gros Marne, Gaspe Nord, Quebec and homesteaded at Lac Bellevue in June 1912. Their family was comprised of Phillip, Eugenie, Josephine, Claudia, Yvonne, Zelia.

The railroad misplaced their trunks filled with their belongings and they had no money whatsoever. The first winter was spent in Lafond in a house loaned to them by Mr. Emile Cloutier, until they could build one of their own. During that winter Joseph worked for Mr. Charles B. Lafond who raised sheep. For three weeks they slaughtered and dressed sheep, and then, brought the meat to a butcher shop in Vegreville.

Joseph was an experienced hewer of timber in Quebec, so, he squared logs for the farmers of St. Paul to supplement his income. He also cut firewood for the Lavoie Hotel and for Mr. Napoleon Cyr of St. Paul.

After a few years he bought one of the first Threshing machines in Lac Bellevue district and threshed for the Farmers. The living conditions for the family improved until the "hungry thirties" when he sold to Mr. Gadowsky.

In 1912 Joseph went to the homestead to build his log cabin. While he was working there Mrs. Laflamme was staying at her Brother's, Joe Henley. It was then that Antoinette was born — June 12 — assisted by Mrs. Lambert, a midwife from Duvernay.

At 62 Joseph went to Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan to open a restaurent but, after two years Mrs. Laflamme could not work any more because of health reasons so he sold it and took another homestead there, which he improved and obtained the title for.

In 1954 Mr. & Mrs. Laflamme retired in St. Paul where he died June 25, 1959 at 90 years of age and she passed away May 22, 1955, aged 72.

Philip (1900) lives at Horsefly, B.C.

Eugenie (1901) married Donat Noel — deceased.

Zelia & Antoinette Laflamme "flappers" of 1928.

Josephine (1903) married Adolphe Labrecque and has retired in the Heritage Homes in St. Paul.

Yvonne Routhier (1904) lives in Lac La Biche.

Claudia McGinnis (1900) resides at Stoney Lake.

Zelia (1909) married George Robinson and they live in their own house in St. Paul.

Jeannette deceased.

Antoinette Dancy (1912) is in St. Paul.

Rose Dubrule (1915) deceased.

Mr. Laflamme had eight daughters so it was only normal that he had a steady flow of suitors passing through the house. He was a stickler for conventions and would sit in his rocking chair, apparently deeply involved reading his newspaper. Occasionally, he would peak over the pages to observe his daughters and their callers. At nine o'clock he would fold his paper, pick up his alarm and wind it. Then he would open the door, throw out the cat and say, "Well, boys here we go to bed early." Thus ended many courtings!

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Laflamme, 1938.

MICHEL LAFRAMBOISE — COFFIN MAKER

by Bob Tomlinson

Neche, North Dakota, USA is a settlement south of Winnipeg, two miles across the American border. This was the birthplace of Michel Laframboise. As a young man he left home to come to Alberta and never returned. He arrived in Nisku, Alberta, near Edmonton, in 1895, and spent the next seven years working in that locality.

When he moved it was to go to St. Paul. There he met Marie Ange Cardinal. She had been brought up by the Grey Nuns in the St. Albert convent where she had been educated to become a teacher. She taught there until 1900 when she went to Sacred Heart, in Saddle lake, where the Grey Nuns operated a residential school. In 1902 she married Michel Laframboise in St. Albert. When the Assumption Sisters came to St. Paul she taught with them, in 1904-1905.

Michel and his brother opened a store in St. Paul, across the street from the present Legion Hall and operated it until 1913. At the same time he ran a ranch where he had large herds of cattle and horses, three miles west of St. Paul — north of Blue Quills School.

It was in St. Paul that their son, Leopold, was born on December 15, 1908.

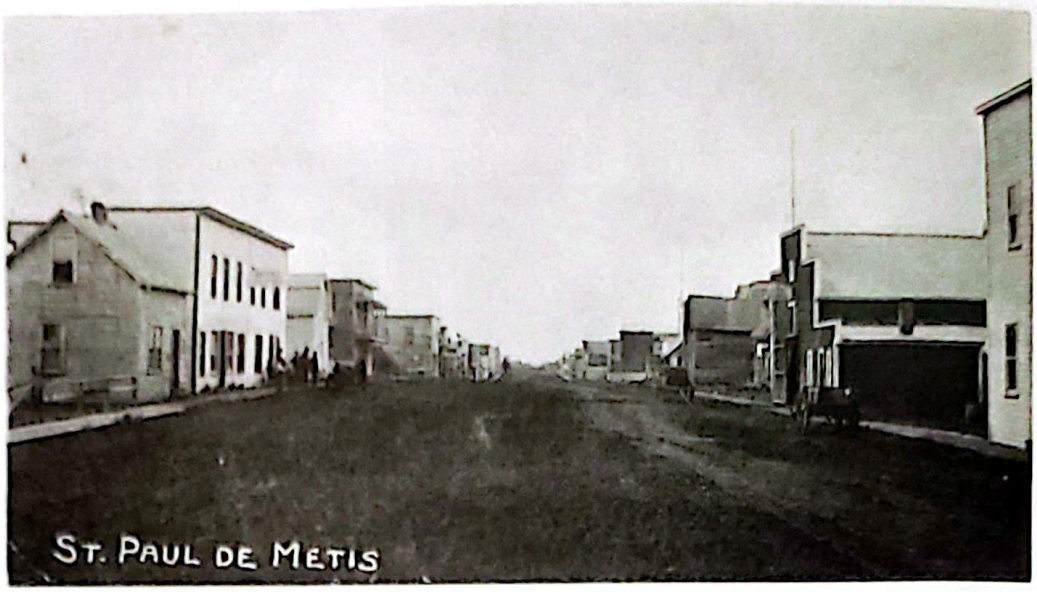
When Michel disposed of his store and ranch in St. Paul he moved to Lafond in 1915. He bought NW¼ 4-57-10-W4th from Mr. Marcotte and sold it, in 1917 to Mr. Richmond Malo. Then he moved to different farms east of Lafond and into Elk Point. In 1926 he rented the Courtemanche (Gongos, Link) farm. There is a lovely valley nestling between two big hills on this farm, and, in the center is a little house near a creek. This was his home for one year.

After roaming and farming in the Lafond area he bought another farm NE¼ 2-57-11-W4th, in 1933. It had originally belonged to Senator Lessard who had died. Michel got it from the Royal Trust who were the executors of the estate. Michel and then his son owned his land until 1962 when it was sold to Eugene Foisy.

In the meantime Marie Ange had passed away in 1937 and Michel in 1947. Marie Ange is well remembered by many residents of Lafond. She was called upon by many families to attend the births of their babies. She was a proficient Midwife.

In 1912 a large shipment of cattle was assembled in Lafond, where the church is now located. Michel and Emilien Daniels drove them across country to Brosseau. There they had to cross the North Saskatchewan River. Some cattle crossed on the ferry and some swam across. They followed the trails to Vegreville where they were loaded on the train for their destination — Swift and Burns in Edmonton. This was the largest herd collected in Lafond, and the last.

During those years there were no undertakers so the families of the deceased had to make all the funeral arrangements. Michel was called upon numerous times to build the coffins. Being a carpenter this was no problem. He would build it during the day and Marie Ange would drape it with black crepe and line it artistically with white satin. His son claims that he lost count of the number of coffins his father built.



Town of St. Paul in early 1920's.

LEOPOLD LAFRAMBOISE

by Bob Tomlinson

Leopold was born in St. Paul on December 15, 1908. He started school in Cartier 1916, where Miss Houle was the teacher. Then he attended Lafond School until 1924, while Miss Chalifoux and Mrs. Brunelle were teaching.

When Leopold was seven years old he had an accident which could have had dire consequences. His father, Michel was moving a shack for Emile Malo with horses. Somehow he ran over Leopold. There were no hospitals nearby, at that time, so, Leopold stayed in bed for three weeks, tended by his mother. He had no broken bones but was badly bruised and, what's more, badly frightened. As far as he knows there were no after-effects.

After Leopold left school, he worked on the farm, helping his father and using horses until 1960. He raised pigs, chickens, cattle and horses. In 1968 he retired to a little house on Bob Tomlinson's NW¼ 2-57-11-W4th.

Leopold had another accident in a logging camp at Slave Lake on New Year's Eve 1948. A cat was skidding logs. Usually when it hit a tree it would break at the root. This time it broke further up and the falling snag hit Leopold. Again, bruises but no broken bones or ill-effects!

Leopold reminisces about Lafond's infancy. At first there was nothing where the village now stands. There was a store one and a half miles west run by Jacob Nicklechuk and C.B. Lafond Sr. had a post office.

There was no resident priest but Father Housson came from the Sacred Heart Mission of Saddle Lake. In 1912 the first church was built and the parish priest was Father Hamelin.

In 1916 the first Lafond school was built and Miss Ouellette was the teacher. It burnt in 1948.

In 1917 Ernest Cloutier planned to open a store. He moved a building to the corner where the present store is, in Lafond, but he never operated it. In 1922 Mr. Napoleon Despins, from Brosseau, took over and ran it until 1925. Later Mr. Edmond Robinson owned it and, now, the Lafreniere's.

In 1918 Mantha built a store across the street from Cloutier's building. Then he sold it to Roullard. At different intervals it was run by Robert Cote, Ti-Pape Courtemanche, transformed into a garage, a community hall and, finally demolished.

The first settler to arrive was Mr. York, in 1902, and he chose SW¼ 36-56-11-W4th to be his home. He had two daughters. Some families began to come from the East, USA and Europe but most of the homesteaders were bachelors who, if they desired a wife, had to look far afield to find one.

At 71, Leopold has a wonderful memory. He remembers dates, land descriptions, events that occurred in Lafond, Foisy, and anecdotes that are amusing. He tells of a certain farmer who, one fall, lost a sow. Although he looked for her he could not find her, until, next spring he heard a noise coming from a straw stack. Out she came with seventeen pigs ready for market. He can tell you where homesteaders lived, whom they sold to and who are the present owners. He is a "Walking Local Historian."

LEONARD LAFOND

by Evariste Gouin

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Lafond of Manchester, Mass. came to Edmonton in March, 1904. They came out to this area and took a homestead, two and a half miles west of Lafond, on the north side of the road. They lived in Edmonton until their house was built. In 1906 they loaded their furniture, and other personal goods on a raft and sailed down the Saskatchewan River to Brosseau. They hired Mr. F.X. Brault to bring them and their baggage to their homestead. They bought some horses, cattle, and sheep. The latter thrived well and, at one point, they had some three hundred grazing on the open parts of their land. They cleared and broke their land with

Home of Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Lafond built in 1906. On photo, taken in 1915, from left to right: Mrs. Lafond, Mr. Briere, Eva Benoit, Mr. Lafond.

Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Lafond's sheep, on their farm, 2½ miles west of Lafond, approximately in 1915.

Mr. Charles B. Lafond Sr. first postmaster of Lafond.

Mrs. Charles B. Lafond (Victorine Eloi Julien) Deceased January 7, 1903.

the help of a young nephew, Evariste Gouin, who had ventured out west from Kinsey in Quebec.

Having no family, Mr. and Mrs. Lafond took him in and raised Eva Benoit, a five year old niece, who had the misfortune of losing both parents. She later married Adolphe Briere and lived for some time in the Lafond district.

Mrs. Lafond will be long remembered as the first organist in the parish of Lafond. This service she rendered to the community for some 15 to 20 years.

Mr. Lafond passed away in 1940. Mrs. Lafond then moved in with her nephew, Evariste Gouin, who had by then built a beautiful big house across the road, south of her home. She lived there until her death in 1955.

LAFOND

by Carmen Brosseau

Lafond was named after Charles Borromé Lafond, first postmaster who came to the area in 1907.

Charles B. Lafond was born in St. Antoine de-La-Baie, Quebec. His parents Joseph and Dorothée farmed. As far as we know he had only one brother, Zotique.

Charles married Victorine Eloi Julien on December 28, 1833. She was the daughter of a merchant in Quebec City.

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Lafond had a family of seventeen. To provide a livelihood Charles moved to Central Falls, Rhode Island, U.S.A. where he and his older sons got employment in factories. The older girls worked in the J. & P. Coats thread mill. The younger children were educated by Irish nuns thus making them bi-lingual.

Mrs. Charles B. Lafond died of a stroke on January 7, 1903 at the age of 59. She was buried in Central Falls, Rhode Island, U.S.A.

After the death of his beloved wife, Charles was lured away from the U.S.A. by the homestead fever, and the call of the west. He returned to Canada in 1906. Three sons accompanied him. They were Aimé, Charles Borromé Jr. and Joseph. In 1907 the Lafonds settled in the area which bears their name. Later Zotique's three sons, Leonard, Urbin and Romulus left Quebec and they also settled in this area.

Two years later Blanche and Annette joined their father. Annette attended to the duties regarding the post office and the household. Blanche taught school for three years at Foisy.

Joseph did not adapt to the life of a farmer. He went north with surveying parties. Then he moved to Los Angeles where he became an engineer. He died of pneumonia while he was on a trip to San Fransisco.

Shortly after the arrival of Blanche and Annette, an older sister who had married Paul Farley came west with her family. They came to live at Charles B.'s home.

It was at this time that Blanche married Jean Baptiste Brosseau on June 4, 1910. The newlyweds moved to a homestead in Brosseau.

While John and Blanche were still in Brosseau Charles B. Lafond Sr. died on November 21, 1930 at the age of 90, victim of an accident in his home.

Aime Lafond & grandson.

Joseph Lafond — surveyor engineer in Los Angeles Cal., U.S.A.

Standing — on the left — Mrs. J.B. Brosseau — on the right Miss Annette Lafond; bottom row seated — Raymond & Lillian Farley; Children — Paul & Maria.

Aime Lafond died of cancer at the age of 83.

Charles B. Jr. who had become a Justice of the Peace for the district fell victim to an accident near his home. He died in 1946.

Annette sold the farm after the Farley children were educated and on their own. She worked at the rectory in Rimbey for Father Murphy. Later she moved to the Sr. Citizen Home in Ponoka where she died in 1975.

It is ironic that from such a large family of ancestors on the Lafond side only seven nephews and nieces survive.

MR. & MRS. ARMAND LABBY

by Suzanne Coutu

Armand and Pauline met and married in Normandeau, near Lac La Biche, Alberta in 1935. In October of 39, Mr. Labby bought the old Gareau place. The two storey frame structure housed a store, post office and living quarters. Mr. Labby ran the store while Mrs. Labby operated the post office and cared for their two preschoolers, Marguerite and Denis.

Mr. and Armand Labby taken in 1935.

In October of 1942 he sold out to Ernest and Bernice Didier. The family relocated in Vancouver, B.C. At present Mr. Labby enjoys his retirement in Edmonton, Alberta. He keeps busy gardening in the summer and ice-fishing in the winter.

Both were born in 1912, he in Legal, Alberta and she in Gravelbourg, Sask. Marguerite moved to Montreal and has five children. Denis lives at home and works in the city. Mr. Labby says Brosseau was a wonderful place in which to live, Mrs. Labby remembers the many kindnesses of its people.

MR. & MRS. FRANCOIS XAVAIER LAPIERRE AND FAMILY

by Rose de Barnes

Mr. Lapierre was born on a farm near St. Denis, Quebec on March 23, 1857. When he reached his 18th birthday, he left home to become a blacksmith's apprentice. He was to receive $2.50 a month during his three yrs. of apprenticeship. After he completed his training in 1878, he moved to Island Pond, Vermont and then to Pittsburg Pa. U.S.A. where his top wage was $12.50 per month.

Mr. Lapierre returned to Canada for a few years. Then on his return to the U.S. he met and married Miss Marguerite Bonnet in 1880. They lived in Rhode Island for a number of years where Mr. Lapierre worked as a blacksmith.

Mrs. Barnes and Marie Louise Simon with their father Mr. F. X. Lapierre on his 100th Birthday on March 23rd, 1957.

In the spring of 1903, an older cousin of his family from nearby St. Edwidge came to call on him. He urged him to sell everything and head west where, he told him, they could buy nice farms for $10.00.

So in March, 1903, they bought tickets to Edmonton. $40.00 for each one over 12 yrs. of age and half fare for the younger ones. With them were the Desrosiers, St. Hilaires and Mr. Gaulin whose wife and family were to follow later.

The St. Hilaires stayed only one month in Edmonton then travelled by team & wagon with their belongings, brought from Quebec, to the place that is now Duvernay. The other men & older boys moved on to the homesteads in the same area, while their families remained in Edmonton to wait for the arrival by freight of the rest of their possessions.

Mr. Lapierre & his two sons, Joe and Frank, claimed three quarters on section 28-55-12 West of 4th. and proceeded to build a long shack with one end used as living quarters and the other end sheltering their teams of horses.

Later Mr. Lapierre returned to Edmonton to get his family. As soon as he arrived, the men got together to build two large scows which were later joined together with a gigantic swivel hook so that they would move more easily over rocks and rapids. This was to transport their families, stock and household goods from the city to their homestead.

The river journey from the city began on May 31st. During the day Mrs. Lapierre cooked the meals on a stove on the scow. Each evening, just before dusk, they tied up to shore to allow the horses and cows to eat and drink along the bank while they slept on the scow. The mosquitoes were dreadful so the men advised us to wear veils while they themselves smoked.

Four days later, they spotted the red flag tied to a tree on the bank. This was the marker indicating that they had finally reached their destination. It was hard to believe that this was going to be home when all they could see was bush.

Mr. Lapierre & his two boys were the first to disembark. When he went back for his family, he had Joe and Frank clear a path to their new house in the bush. It was nice but terribly lonely looking. Previously, the boys had cleared enough land to plant a garden and sow a little grain. After they were settled they cleared more land. As time went by they built themselves a small lumber mill to supply themselves with lumber to build more buildings. They also supplied their neighbors with lumber and did blacksmithing for them. In 1917 the family left the homestead and moved to Duvernay where Mr. Lapierre opened a blacksmith shop. From then on the family operation was left entirely to Joe for one year.

They had bad luck in 1905 when their daughter, Cecilia, died. Then again in 1920 when they lost their son George. Mrs. Lapierre died in 1932, two years after the couple had celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. For the next twenty-seven years of his life Mr. Lapierre made his home with his daughters, Rose de Lima (Mrs. Barnes) and Mrs. Marie Louise Simon. He died in 1959 and was laid to rest in the Holy Cross Cemetery, Edmonton, at the rich old age of 102. This Alberta pioneer who had attributed his long life to unshaken faith in God, hard work as a pioneer farmer and blacksmith, clean and honest living, had just received a message of congratulation from the Queen, the Prime Minister of Canada and the Pope on his 102nd birthday, March 23rd. 1959.

His son Joe married Aléda Theroux. He farmed in Duvernay for a number of years, then moved to Edmonton where he was employed as a steam engineer till his retirement. He had two daughters — Hermine and Angèle.

Frank never married and lived in Duvernay all his life. He spent his last years in the care of his sister Mrs. Rose de Lima Barnes. He was laid to rest in the Vegreville Roman Catholic Cemetery in 1961 at the age of 80 years.

Lapierre's daughter, Marie Louise, married Eugene Ouellet who died during the flu epidemic which hit this area that year. They had a family of four girls: Irene, Albina, Therese and Eugenie. Two years after, Marie Louise was remarried to Alphonse Simon and they had George and Angèle. Mr. Simon died in Edmonton on November 14th, 1968. Mrs. Simon lives in Edmonton surrounded by her happily married children.

MRS. ROSE DE LIMA BARNES

Daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Francois X. Lapierre, was born in Island Pond, Vermont. U.S.A. on October 28th, 1887. When she was 2 yrs. old her parents returned to her Father's native land (Quebec) where she acquired a grade 8 education and developed an early fondness for music. At 14, with her father's permission she was allowed to attend a dance with her two brothers. "Oh, those quadrilles" she laughed and clapped her hands with glee; it was something she never forgot. Yet for

Mr. and Mrs. Barnes's wedding picture taken on July 15th, 1920.

awhile in her young life there would be no more dances, because within the year she left with her parents for the west. For the first year it was pretty quiet on the homestead but within a short time there were neighbors all around them and there were lots of house parties. She learned to play the organ and would get $3.00 for playing at dances with her brother Joe who could play the violin very well. She would have preferred being on the dance floor herself but she played to earn herself some money. Only when she was dancing or playing

Mme. De Lima as a young girl with her Mother, Mme. F.X. LaPierre. Picture taken in Edmonton in 1903.

music could she forget her Quebec that she missed so much. Naturally it was at a dance that she met her future husband Albert Barnes whom she married in July 1920. She sent to Eatons for her dress ($19.00) and slippers. Since it was the custom to wear something old, and everything she had was new, she wrapped her knees with sugar sacks for the wedding service because she knew she would have to kneel a long time and it would be hard on her knees.

After a small dinner party they were driven over a rough and dusty road to Vegreville where they took the train to Edmonton. The races at the Exhibition were a high point but she couldn't figure out where so many people came from.

Mrs. Rose De Lima Barnes and her brother Frank in front of her Post office when she retired as Postmistress in 1960.

They returned to take up residence in Duvernay in the same house where she lived most of her life. Mr. Barnes told his wife that they could buy a farm if she wanted but her reply was "If you buy a farm don't expect me to go with you."

They managed very nicely without farming. Throughout his life he was sheriff, bailiff, engineer, poolroom operator and barber. She was not keen on raising a family, yet she managed to keep herself well occupied. Probably remembering the hardship her mother had during their farming days, she didn't want any part of it.

From 1928 to 1960 she operated the post office from her home, had the Alberta Government telephone exchange for 35 years, and was agent for Canadian Utilities for 19 yrs. On her retirement as postmistress she was honored by the Post Office Officials for the 32 years of faithful service rendered to the Post Office Department of Canada.

Memories:— Her father bought her a pump organ for $5.00. when she first got the organ the keys used to stick, so one by one she removed each one and returned them to the Thomas Organ Co. who repaired them for 25¢ each.

Mrs. Barnes, laughingly recalls how frightened she was of the coyotes howling through the nights in the early days on the homestead, "though they were just as scared of us." Of the Indians she says, "They looked so wild, although they never meant us any harm. They were very nice people."

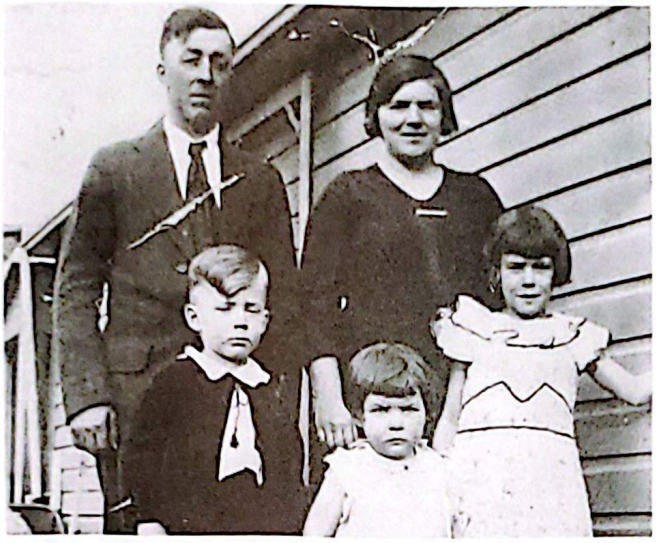
In October 1975, Mrs. Rose de Lima Barnes sold her home to the Alberta Department of Highways, as the land was needed for the building of a wider bridge to accommodate the ever increasing traffic. She went to live with her niece Mrs. Edgar McCullough of Gunn Alberta.

Mr. Albert Barnes passed away on May 31st, 1954, at the age of 68 years and was buried in Vegreville.

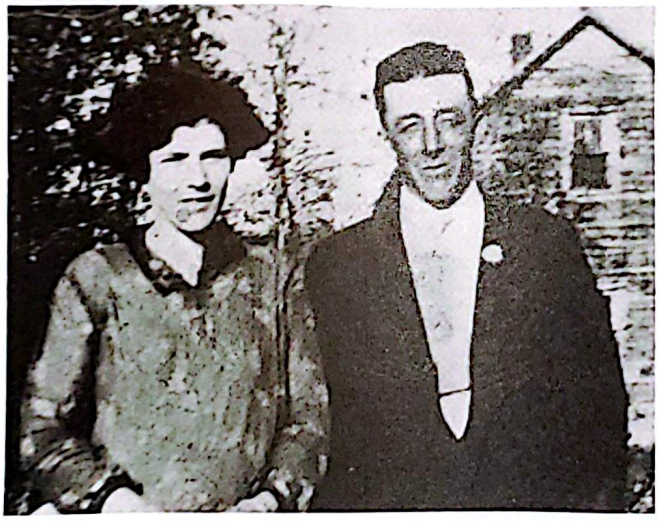
ANTELAUS LAFRENIERE

by Rose Trembley

Antelaus Lafreniere was the sixth child born to Elie Lafreniere and Cordillia Vincent, on March 2, 1899 in St. Flore, Quebec. He came west with the family to live on the homestead SE¼ 2-56-10-W4th, then on to the other one south east of Lafond. He remembers the 12 by 12 shack they had for their large family. Every night, he says, was dance time.



Mr. & Mrs. Antelaus Lafreniere and three of their children — Rose, Denise and Germain in 1935.



Antelaus married Laura Dumaine in St. Paul, with Father LaRose officiating, on October 11, 1927. They had a small dinner at his father's home. Then they went for supper at Dumaine's in St. Edouard with a few relatives and friends.

Mr. & Mrs. Lafreniere had 6 children, born at home, attended by a midwife, Mrs. Laboucane:

Rose Tremblay (St. Paul), Germain (St. Paul),

The shack in Lafond where the Lafreniere family lived in 1912.

Denise Robinson (Lloydminster), Yvette Lafortune (St. Paul), Henri (St. Paul), Leo (St. Paul).

Antelaus farmed for many years before going to St. Paul. Mrs. Laura Lafreniere died October 28, 1975. He has his home in St. Paul but the winter of 1979-1980 was spent in the Sunnyside Manor — a senior citizen's home. He enjoys his life there and is considering selling his house and moving there permanently.

ELIE LAFRENIERE

by Rose Trembley

Elie Lafreniere was born in St. Boniface, Quebec and married Cordillia Vincent in Manchester, Massachusett, USA. They had seven children, all born in St. Flore, Quebec: Maria, Joseph, Rosalda, Elphege, Antonia, Antelaus and Archille.

The Elie Lafreniere Family; back row from the right — Maria, Joseph Rosealda; front row from the right — Elphege, Antelaus, father Elie, Archille, Antonia.

Mrs. Cordillia Lafreniere died and Elie remarried in 1906. His second wife was Marie Louise Desaulniers (born in 1863).

In 1908 Elie decided that the West would give his family greater opportunities for the future, as conditions

in Quebec were difficult — low living standards and very few good jobs. He came first to file for a homestead. The following year, in July, the family followed. In Vegreville, there was an empty house set up for immigrants, so they stayed there for a short while before proceeding to the homestead SE¼ 2-56-10-W4th. There Elie had built a log shack with a roof of dirt. That first year he broke fifteen acres of land which, the following year, he sowed with wheat-but it froze!

At first there was no church, no priest, no school and no doctors. To Mr. Lafreniere and family this was painful. They attended Mass in a little log house near where the Present St. Laurent, Brosseau church is located. Their shopping for groceries and other necessities was done in the Edmond Brosseau General Store.

The Lafreniere family stayed four years by the river and then moved to Lafond where they lived in another log shack for four months while they built a larger house in 1912. In 1934 this house burned. The nearest school was the Lac Bellevue School which the children attended.

1919 was a bad year! In the fall they could not thresh because of the weather. Then the terrible winter hit the whole province, including the Lafond area — very low temperatures and deep snow. The horses could paw through the snow and were able to survive, however, the cattle had no feed so many froze to death in the drifts.

During the Depression years (hungry thirties) money became scarce. Hogs sold for $2-$3 each; good cattle for $8-$10 each; oats at 10¢ a bushel and wheat for 25¢ a bushel. Flour cost $2.00 for a 100-pound bag.

Mrs. Elie Lafreniere (nee Marie Louise Desaulniers). She was Elie's second wife.

Elie Lafreniere died March 17, 1923 and his wife, Marie Louise, in 1938. His family with Cordillia:

Marie (August 31, 1890) married Edmond Robinson in Brosseau, died April 1941.

Joseph (1890) died May 7, 1940.

Rosalda (July 1, 1894) married Denis Lajoie who died April 17, 1967. she died November 22, 1979.

Elphege (April 5, 1896) married Leonille Lapointe September 9, 1909 in Lafond, died March 12, 1939.

Antonia (December 16, 1898) maried Conrad Gill April 13, 1925 in Lafond and moved to St. Vincent.

Antelaus

Archille (March 17, 1902) married Rachelle Gill April 10, 1927 in St. Paul and died June 30, 1954.

Edmond and his wife Maria (nee Lafreniere) with their two daughters Lucille and Gabrielle — on the farm in 1936-1940. Edmond then opened a store in the hamlet of Lafond in 1930.

MARTIN LAVALLEE

by Rita Weir

Martin Lavallee, one of the earliest settlers before Brosseau and South Bend came into existence, was born November 20, 1877 to earlier Alberta pioneer stock, Louis Lavallee and his wife, Catheine L'Esperance. Louis settled in Lac La Biche during the previous decade where he worked as a guide, later becoming a "Captain" on an Athabaska River scow team.

As a young man, Martin also worked along the Athabaska River where crews rode the scows down-stream as far as the giant Mountain Rapids at Fort Fitzgerald on the Slave River. Returning from there, the 10-12 men crews harnessed themselves and, using long ropes, dragged their boats against the currents to Athabaska landing.

Martin married a Plamondon, Alberta, girl named Elizabeth Ladouceur on May 10, 1898. She was the daughter of Adam Ladouceur and Marguerite Desmarais, born November 8, 1880. They moved south to Stry (south of Vilna and west of Saddle lake, Alberta) in 1902 where Martin, now the father of two, tended cattle for one winter.

In 1901, the three Lavallee brothers, Martin, Frederick and Alfred took homesteads in the vicinity of Father Lacombe's abandoned St. Paul des Cris mission. Alfred filed on NW 23-56-12-W4th. Frederick had his on

Mr. & Mrs. Martin Lavallee, 1906.

NW¼ 16-56-12-W4th. Martin filed the NE¼ 34-55-12-W4th. At that time the main trail crossed the creek right next to their cabin.

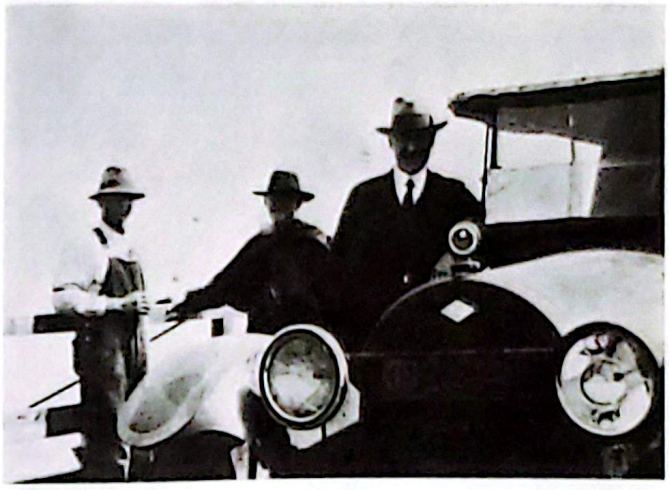
Clearing the aspen-covered soil was no easy chore for the young couple as all they owned was a team of horses, a wagon, a tent, an axe, a shotgun and a few shells. They put up a log cabin on the west side of the creek and roofed it with sod. Their eldest daughter, Marie, recalls a three-day rain in which the roof began to leak so badly that Martin, to keep his family dry, pitched his tent inside.

Martin and Frederick Lavallee, (1902)

Later when the highway moved to its present location, they moved to the opposite corner of their land (just south of the present Brosseau post-office. Here they again lived in a log cabin — much larger this time as their family was to expand to a giant thirteen.

Frederick, also lived in this area for several years on his homestead. He was an old-time fiddler who loved to play while Martin danced the Red River Jig. His house burned down, one day, while he was working in the field. Martin and Frederick's sister, Mrs. Melanie Johnston, tried to rescue the fiddle from upstairs but was driven back by the heat and the smoke. She later fainted from the effects of this fruitless rescue. Frederick lived with Martin and his family for a while and then returned to Lac La Biche where he spent the rest of his life.

As well as being a farmer, Martin worked as a ferryman for two or three years, shortly after the first world war. He and his son, Arthur, also broke horses for Joe Brosseau.



Martin Lavallee taking a couple of passengers across the river on the ferry. 1922

Mr. & Mrs. Martin Lavallee with grandsons Reginald and Keith, 1947.

The last house they lived in on the homestead was originally the Brosseau house built by Edmond Brosseau Sr. next to his General store along the first bank of the North Saskatchewan River in 1906-08. In the early forties, Martin had it moved — in two sections by horses — to its present location, near the second log house on the homestead. It now stands deserted.

Mr. & Mrs. Martin Lavallee retired in Duvernay in 1947. He passed away September 10, 1955, followed by his wife December 9, 1956. Both are resting in the Brosseau cemetery, not far from their old home-site.

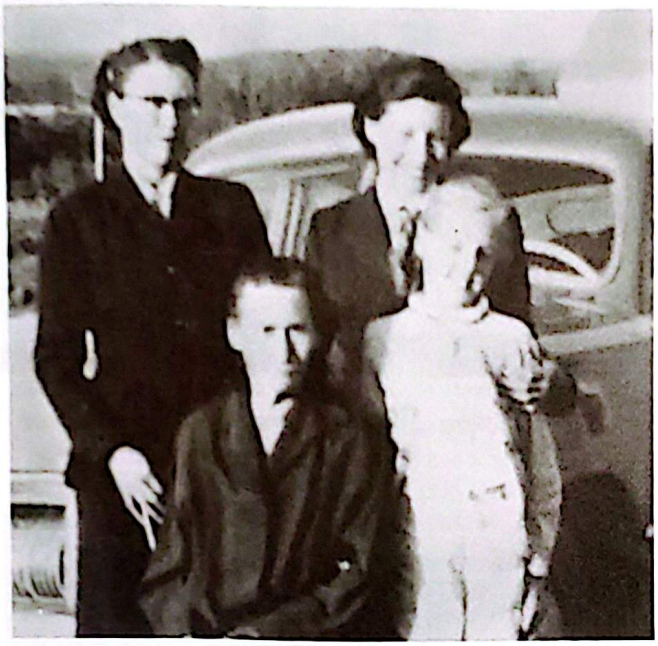
Martin and Elizabeth had a large family of five boys and eight girls. In order of their births between 1899 and 1921 they are:

Marie — December 18, 1899, married Joe Carey, widowed, remarried and is now Mrs. Lars Johanson, lives in Coquitlam, B.C.

Arthur — born April 24, 1902, died March 19, 1924 at 21 years of age.

Laura — born May 15, 1904, married Ralph Cameron, lives in Millet, Alberta.

Elmire — born July 6, 1905, married Louis Couture, lives in Vancouver, B.C.



Four generations: Mrs. Martin Lavallee (seated) behind her — Mrs. Marie Carey, beside her — Mrs. Helen Galick and young daughter, Carol Galick, 1955.

Delphine — died at two months of age and buried at Saddle Lake, as there was no church at Brosseau at the time.

Emilia — born May 7, 1908, married Cecil Cameron, died February 23, 1961.

Donalda and Roseanna — (twin girls) died at six months old, one week apart, buried in Brosseau.

Laurent — born June 24, 1910, married Emma Bosse, died July 18, 1958.

Raoul — born May 17, 1913, remained single, lives at Upper Fraser, east of Prince George, B.C.

George — born December 2, 1915, married Rita Robinson, died December 31, 1968.

Joseph — born December 16, 1921 married Katherine Wirachowsky, lives in Duvernay.

Martin and Elizabeth were true pioneers of our dear country, strong in faith and with a great trust in God's Providence. They have 21 grandchildren to carry on their traditions.

LAWRENCE LAVALLEE

by Robt. Bachelet

Lawrence was born June 24, 1910 in Brosseau, the son of Martin and Elizabeth Lavallee of Brosseau. He attended the St. Laurent school.

Lawrence and Emma Lavallee and family, 1957. Back Row L. to R. Gloria, Edward, Maurice, Roland. Front: Kenneth, Brenda, Lawrence, Emma, Sylvia, Diana.

On August 15, 1939, Lawrence married Emma Bosse of Brosseau. Emma was the daughter of Eugene and Marcelene Bosse. She was born at Coronation, Alberta on Oct. 28, 1919. Emma attended school at Throne, Alberta, moving to Brosseau at 15 years of age.

Lawrence and Emma farmed at Brosseau for a little over a year and then moving to Kikino, Alberta with their two young sons. The family ranched there for approximately 6 years during which three more children were born. Lawrence and Emma then took their young family back to Brosseau to farm on his father's homestead. In the next few years they had 3 more children.

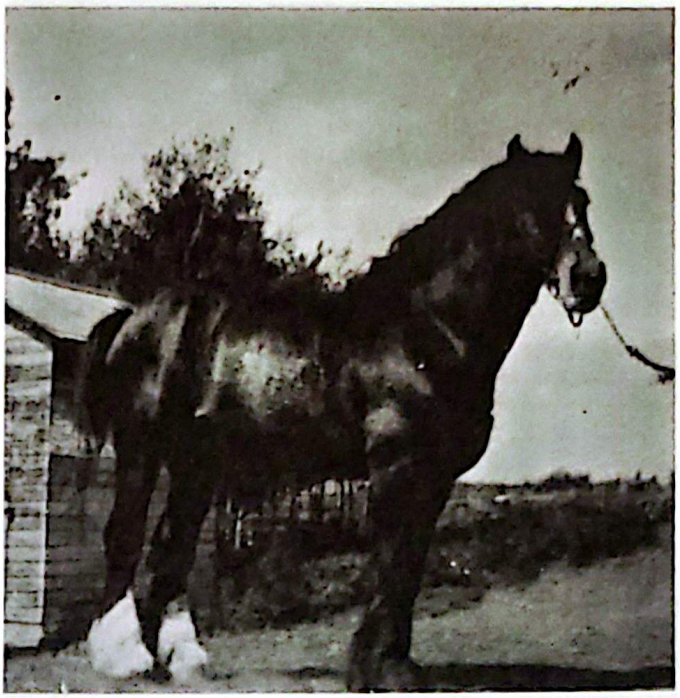
Life on the farm involved lots of hard work but there were also the happy times. With so many children of their own, the old homestead soon became a gathering place for the neighbours kids. Many a youngster learned his first swimming strokes in the "Lavallee" creek. There was always an ample supply of youngsters around to get a ball game going. Weekend nights were often spent playing cards or dancing. Warm Sunday afternoons were reserved for family picnics or just spent at the lake.

Lawrence Lavallee passed away July 18, 1958, and was buried at the R.C. Cemetery in Brosseau. Emma stayed on at the farm with her young family for a few more years.

In 1962, Emma moved her family to Edmonton. She rented for a few years, finally buying her own home in 1966. Things started looking better again for Emma and on April 3, 1970, she married Peter Johnson of Edmonton.

Lawrence and Emma Lavallee had 8 children, four boys and four girls.

Lavallee family picture taken March 1979 just before Maurice moved to Footner Lake. Back row: Peter Johnson, Maurice, Edward and Ken Lavallee, Sylvia Kern. Front row: Emma Johnson, Diana Gully, Gloria Goryniuk, Brenda Richardson and Roland Lavallee.



Clydesdale stallion bought from Fred Shoff by Lawrence Lavallee in 1935. It took 2 days to bring him 12 miles to Brosseau, as he was always tied in a barn, and his hoofs were so tender, that after the first 7 miles he couldn't walk anymore. He weighed 2200 lbs. and was an asset in upgrading the quality of horses in the area.

Roland, born Feb. 13, 1940 at Vegreville. He married Elaine Gemmell and they now have two sons. Tim was born Jan. 26, 1966 and Brent, born July 17, 1971. Roland and his family live in Edmonton. He is president of Alpine Express, a messenger service.

Maurice, born March 20, 1941 at Vegreville. Maurice married Annette Berlinguette of St. Paul. They have 3 sons: Lawrence, born Aug. 2, 1966; Darryl, born Jan. 6, 1969; and Trevor, born Dec. 3, 1972. Maurice is employed with the Dept. of Energy and Natural Resources (Forestry) and is presently stationed at Footner Lake near High Level, Alberta.

Lawrence Lavallée courting Emma Bossé in 1938 on their way to a picnic in Two Hills. That was the smoothest method of transportation at that time, as the old wooden wheel wagons were rough riding.

Edward, born May 11, 1942 at Lac La Biche. He married Marian Meehan of Innisfail. Marian and Edward have 3 sons: Vance, born Nov. 2, 1971; Brian, born July 6, 1973; and Dale, born Dec. 24, 1976. Edward is employed with the C.N.R. and presently make his home in Edson, Alberta.

Gloria, born Oct. 10, 1943 at Kikino, Alberta. Gloria married Archie Goryniuk of Ispas, Alberta. Gloria and Archie have two children. Donna, born Jan. 21, 1963, and Archie Jr., born Jan. 10, 1964. They reside in Edmonton where Archie runs his own trucking business.

Diane, born Dec. 16, 1945 at Kikino, Alberta. She married Steve Gully of Rannock. Steve and Diane have two sons: Leslie, born Dec. 29, 1970 and Jeffrey, born Nov. 14, 1974. The family lives in Edmonton where Steve works as a heavy equipment operator.

Ken, born March 14, 1950 at Two Hills. Ken is a welder and lives in Edmonton.

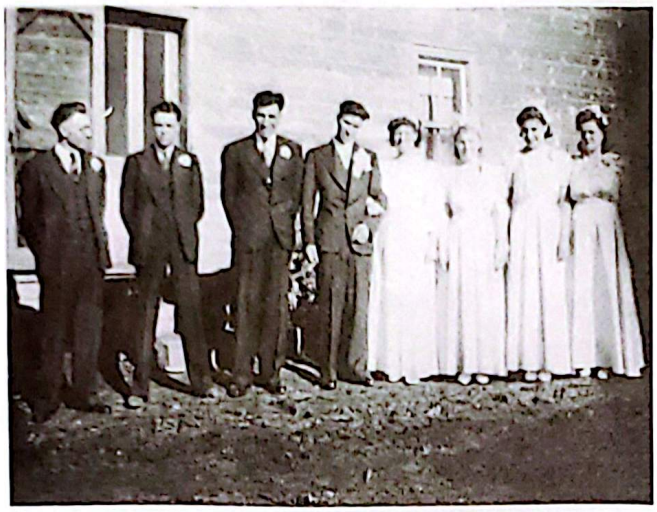
Brenda, born Aug. 15, 1952 at Two Hills. Brenda married Ken Richardson of Edmonton and they have one son, Devon, born July 6, 1979. They make their home in Edmonton where Ken works as a draftsman for the city.

Sylvia, born June 10, 1954, at Two Hills. Sylvia married Manfred Kern. They have a son and daughter: Joshere, born Aug. 4, 1975, and Sasha, born April 11, 1977. They make their home in Edmonton where Manfred works as Warehouse Manager for R.G.O., an office supply company.

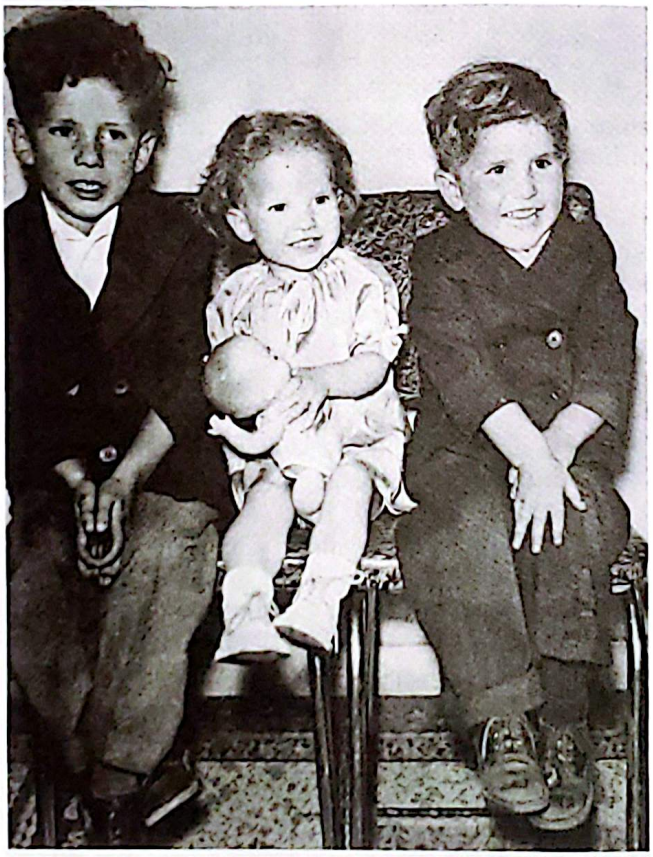
JOSEPH (JOE) LAVALLEE

by Rita Weir

Joseph Lavalle was born and raised in the Brosseau-Duvernay area. He was the youngest child of Martin Lavallee and Elizabeth Ladouceur. As a young man he left with his wife Katherine (nee Wirachowsky) to make a start in life near Edmonton and Prince George, B.C.



Bride — Katie Wirachowsky; Groom — Joe Lavallee; Bridesmaids — Jessie Wirachowsky, Madonna Wirachowsky, Helen Kliene; Bestmen — Raoul Lavallee, Bill Peterson, Hector Coutu.



Joe Lavallee and Katie Lavallee's children, Reginald, Elaine and Brent, 1952.

Back row — Reginald, Joe Lavallee, Brent; Front row — Elaine, Katie, Martin, about 1970.

When he returned to Duvernay in 1953 he had no idea that he would become prominent in local union affairs, as he was leaving union problems behind in the interior of B.C. At that time the timber industry near Prince George ground to a standstill due to strikes. Joe, the father of three children, was just plain looking for work when he came back.

He found employment with Casault Engineering which was building the Western Chemicals plant just above Duvernay.

In December of 1953 the plant went into production and Joe became an assistant operator. The area suffered from a lack of qualified personnel, and the operator Joe worked with, Harry Dronyk, had only a few days' experience. Most of Joe's years at the plant were spent running the Brine Building until it was closed due to economical problems. By then, three of the Lavallee children had left home. Joe never did like shift work so, taking a slight drop in pay, he moved into the yard as a tractor-truck operator rather than operating a new building.

While working at the plant, Joe was active with the union and was elected as steward for two years and rose to be President of Oil Chemical and Atomic Workers (O.C.A.W.) Local for eight more years. During his service with O.C.A.W. Joe found himself associated with nationally renowned union personalities as Neil Reimer and Reg Baskin.

All three of Joe's sons, Reginald, Brent and Martin and his son-in-law Ron Chornohus were employed at the plant for a while.

At the present Joe spends his winters as a boilerman in Swan Hills and comes home to Duvernay in the summer when Katie goes back to running a school bus for Two Hills County.

The daughter, Elaine married Ron Chornohus and has three lovely little children, Todd, Scott and Deanna.

Joe is the only Lavallee left in Brosseau-Duvernay, after a span of 79 years.

ALEX LUPUL

by Kate Lupul

Metro Lupul and Annie Chornoluk were born in Bukowina, Austria and came to Canada in 1910. They settled in Bellis, Alberta. they had twins, John Lupul and Dora Popil, Victoria and Repka and Alex. Alex made his appearance on March 12, 1915. He grew up in Bellis.

Alex met Kate Rosychuk, daughter of Nick Rosychuk and Anne Mohiliuk in Two Hills. They were married in the Shepenitz Church, west of Duvernay, in 1936.

This is how Alex's relatives dressed in 1890, in Bukowina Austria.

Alex and Kate Lupul celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary in the Champlain Hall in 1961.

After they married, Alex and Kate went to farm in Bellis, on a half-section of stones and clay. They cleared the farm from a 25-acre plot to 100 acres of cultivated land. They built a house and a barn. After ten years of hard work they decided to move. They sold the farm and went to the Champlain district, near Brosseau, where they purchased SE 26-56-12-W4th from John Chester in 1945.

Alex and Kate say Good bye to their house in July 1973 when they moved to St. Paul.

In 1936. The first sets of horses and the harness made by Kate's father, Mr. Nick Rosychuk, as cheap as possible. At the back is the barn built in Bellis.

Alex and Kate's 35th wedding anniversary at their home. William Boychuk is seated by Alex.

The first sleigh house built in 1939.

House-warming in the new Lupul residence in Champlain. 1952. Bill and Stephen Chrapko, John Twerdochlib and Lucy, George and Mary Tascuk, Bill and Besie Boychuk, Mike and Jean Ternovoy, Alex and Kate Lupul, Andy and Victoria Repka, Mike and Dora Popil, Krezon and Anne Drapaka.

Alex and Kate Lupul have three children:

William was born October 29, 1937. In 1962 he married Anita Shroeder of Manville, Alberta, and went farming on NW 19-56-11-W4th. They have five children, Dennis, Rhonda, Roxane, Carrie and Tracy.

Kristeen was born January 28, 1941. She married Barry Kenyon and they make their home in Edmonton. Their children are Kelly Ann and Trevor. Clarence, born September 27, 1945 met Shirley Wozney from Redwater, Alberta, while she was working as Lab Technician in the Two Hills Hospital. They were married November 14, 1970 and have one child, Jamie. He took over his father's farm in 1973.

Alex's mother, Mrs. Annie Lupul died in 1957. Her husband, Metro Lupul, moved to B.C., living in Vancouver and then Vernon. Alex visited him 13 times between 1963 and 1973. When Alex moved to St. Paul in 1973 his father went to live with him and passed away in 1974. Both Mr. & Mrs. Metro Lupul are buried in the Bellis cemetery.

Alex and Kate never stopped their hard work. Alex bought a truck and did custom hauling of grain for the farmers and he went gravelling the roads. He retired in 1980.

Kate found employment in St. Paul. For two years, she worked at Al Cleaners, and then for three years, part-time at St. Theresa Hospital as a cleaning woman on all the floors. She has been cooking for the last year and a half at the St. Paul Day Care Center.

In 1969, Alex and Kate had a stroke of good luck. While at the stockyard in Lloydminster, Alberta, they found a barrel into which the people placed their names. When the draw was made Alex was the fortunate winner of a trip to the Toronto Royal Winter Fair for one week. There was so much to see, even a tour of Niagara Falls!

Now, Alex and Kate Lupul have eight grandchildren and are looking forward to see them grow. After living for 32 years in Brosseau and seven in St. Paul, they have made many friends, whom they hope to enjoy for many more years.

Dora Popil, Alex' sister, and Eddy, Alex and Kate Lupul on a trip to B.C. to visit Mr. Nick Lupul.

JOSEPH AND ALBERT MARSH

by Lucia Robinson

Joseph Marsh and his wife, Emma Newby, with their daugthers Sadie and Gertie, came up from Glencoe, Minn. U.S.A. in 1896 to Beaumont, Alberta where Daisy and Albert were born.

In 1906 he moved to Strathcona where Henry was born. Daisy and Henry attended Strathcona School. Before and after school Henry herded milk cows for 25 cents a day. Sons Ed and Ben were born 1910 and 1912. He moved to Lavoy in 1915 and left there in July 1918 to go to Flat Lake. On the way they camped at Brunelle Lake, north of Lafond. It was awfully cold and in the morning there was ice on the troughs. In Flat lake he bought a quarter of land from Stonehauker. The first thing he had to do was dig a well by shovel because there was none on the farm. This well had no cribbing, but lots of mice and no water.

Gertie and Sadie Marsh.

Albert & Agnes Marsh, Ken, June, Cliff, Marg, Bill, Myrtle, Jan. 78 in hall at Ashmont.

Joseph was building a chicken coop because he thought that every farm MUST have one so Albert had to do the plowing. One morning while striking-out the first furrow he struck a rock and went flying between the horses. "What was that? "A rock", said Joseph. This was Albert's first experience with rocks.

The Marsh family were once more to move, back to Lavoy. Joseph needed money so he mowed a load of hay and sold it to Old Man Pulkrabek in St. Paul. He bought a bag of flour and went to camp at Lake Brunelle. Albert made baking powder biscuits with two eggs, flour and the pure water of the lake. There was no pollution in that lake at that time. They continued to Lavoy and found their crops frozen, but they mowed and raked them for feed. Daisy and Albert trapped six dozen rats and sold them for 35¢ a piece. This bought groceries.

April the first was always moving time. In 1919 the family were on their way to Flat Lake once more, with their belongings, machinery and cattle. They had to camp in Duvernay for three weeks because the ice on the river was unsafe for crossing and the ferry wasn't in operation. One night the horses strayed away so Albert took a box of oatmeal and 10¢, presumably to look for them, but, he was taking off. At Ben's Lake he was resting in a little bluff when he heard a noise. Thinking it could be a bear he climbed a tree in a hurry, but it was only a herd of black cattle going for a drink at the lake. Next morning Albert continued on his way to Lavoy where he stayed until 1924.

Ed Marsh, Ben Marsh, Henry Marsh, Rose (Chester) Marsh, Evelyn Chester, Grandma Marsh and Gertie Daly with her son Tim. Taken on Ben and Rosie's wedding day in 1939.

In the morning Joseph found his horses and went on to Flat Lake, leaving some machinery in Duvernay because he had to drive Albert's team while Mrs. Marsh drove his. Ben and Ed were driving the cattle.

In 1924 moving again! This time Joseph rented Gadbois' on SW¼ 4-56-11-W4th "No rocks", he said. Then on to SW¼ 36-56-12-W4th in 1925.

In 1926 Henry bought NW¼ 6-56-11-W4th because he was tired of roaming and moving. The family resided there until Joseph's death in 1947, Henry's in 1952 and Mrs. Marsh in 1953. Ed kept the farm until 1961 when he sold it to Herve Malo.

Albert, meanwhile, married Agnes Smith, only daughter of William Smith (J.P. Smith) on January 23, 1928. He lived in the Foisy district until 1959 when he bought a 60-acre plot of land on Mann Lake and ran a concession at the beach. He has now retired there but still have horses. Chores keep him going strong.

Albert and Agnes have six children:
Kenneth (1944) married Gladys Norn
Marjorie (1937) married Paul Jodoin
Clifford (1935) married Ruth Korop
Myrtle (1932) married Lawrence Gales
June (1930) married Pete Lesyk
Bill (1928) married Stella (Jean) St. Jean

THE DONALD LESLIE McKAIN STORY

by Don McKain

Donald McKain was born in the early 1940's or during the Second World War, in a small town south of Red Deer known as Innisfail.

Don's parents, Cecil and Helen McKain owned a farm in the Spruce-View area. My father came to Canada in 1907, with his parents Jay and Sarah McKain, from Spokane, Washington. My mother was born in High River, Alberta. Later moving with her parents, Jack and Isabelle Leakie, to the Westward-Ho area.

I lived with my parents on their farm until I was eighteen years of age. From there I went to work in Red Deer at the Provincial Training School, as summer help.

When the summer was over and all the permanent help had returned from holidays, I was laid off. A few days later, I got a job at the Capri Motor Hotel in Red Deer as a morning cook. Little did the chef know I couldn't boil water at the time. The chef there had a lot of patience and I was determined to become a cook. Together we worked for nearly three years. The chef left there and went to work in Edmonton and I went to work in Calgary at the Stampeder Hotel as a night cook.

I worked there for only nine months then moved to Vancouver. It is now October 1964 not knowing a soul in

Left to Right — Renne, Emma, Don, Trevor standing and Andre sitting on Emma's knees (1977).

the big city, and too far away from my family to help me get settled. I had to learn how to stand on my own two feet. I rented a suite in the west end of Vanouver quite close to Stanley Park. A few days later I got a job at the St. Regis Hotel, working as an assistant chef from 7:00 - 3:00. In my spare time or mostly on my days off I worked as a model for Eatons and the Hudsons Bay Co. This was only a part time job. But I have modeled everything from swim suits to men's pyjamas.

It is now January 1967 and Expo was getting close. Still being a single man at that time, couldn't see how I could miss such an event.

Once again I was on the move, packed by 1962 Rambler Classic to the roof. What I couldn't get in I sold. I was now on my way to Montreal. I travelled from Vancouver to Portland Oregon. From there I travelled east through the Northern States till I got to Buffalo, New York. From there to Niagara Falls, then to Toronto. Later I found that I could get a job in Toronto working for the C.N. Railway as an assistant chef again.

My "run" as they call it in railway talk, was from Toronto to Montreal. I worked fourteen hours every second day with nine consecutive days off each month. That was great for me as I could stay in the YMCA where ever C.N. Railway travelled. Several of my day-off periods were spent in Montreal touring Expo. Others were spent travelling through the Maritime Provinces or touring most of the major cities in the Eastern United States, e.g. New York and Boston. The states of Maine and Vermont. Then on to more large cities, Detroit and Chicago.

On one of my day-off periods I spent it on my aunt and uncles fruit farm, in southern Ontario, just a few miles out of Ruthern. It was the peak of the tomato season. Too me that was a job to be desired by none. Up at five in the morning. Pick the eight acre field of tomatoes all by hand, a basket on one arm and one hand free to pick with. The entire field was picked for light green tomatoes by 10:00 o'clock in the morning. You had to be careful not to pick the wrong colored tomatoes, or they would spoil before they would get to the Retail Stores. All tomatoes that were picked that day had to be graded for sizes, and packed separately into five and eleven quart baskets. then on to the railway depot by 3:00 p.m. that same day.

Later on that same year I moved to Montreal. I continued to work for the C.N. Railway.

In 1968, I moved back to Alberta, via the Canadian No. 1 Highway. Stored my belongings at my mom and dad's farm. My brother was working in the Barrhead area on road construction, and sent word to me that they were in desperate need of a camp cook. Off I went again.

The job was quite a challenge, but quite satisfying. As that is where I met a very short dark haired french girl, known as Emma Bourgeois. In June of 1969 we were married in Barrhead. After the wedding we moved to Calgary where I was employed as assistant chef at the Royal Hotel. We lived in a basement suite for five months then we bought our own house in the southeast part of the city. In April of 1970 our first child was born a litle girl, Renne Lezanne. Then in August 1972 we had a son Trevar Donald. Shortly after Trevor was born I went to work up north as a cook on the oil rigs. In November I returned and was employed as head chef at the Town and Country Motor Hotel. I worked there for one year.

Then I went to work as a carpenter for Dominion Construction. I worked in all parts of the city. In February of 1977 we had another son Andre Cecil. In the fall of 1977 we started looking for a farm in northeastern Alberta.

In June of 1978 we moved to the Two Hills area. In September of the same year we moved to our own farm in Brosseau. Where my family and I operate a small mixed farm. We like this part of the country very much and hope to reside here until our passing.

RICHMOND MALO

by Mrs. Rose Foisy

Mr. Richmond Malo and his wife, Dalvina (nee Caron) came from La Prairie Quebec. He came alone by rail up to Vegreville. He filed his first homestead one mile north of the Lafond church in 1908. His wife and four children came a little later to join him. They stayed nearly four months in Vegreville before coming to Lafond. Mr. Richmond had to build his log cabin with sod before having the family reside on the homestead. With horses they journeyed from Vegreville to Lafond. There the family prospered until 1946, when his youngest son, Aime, took over the homeplace. Mr. Richmond Malo moved into the hamlet of Lafond where he lived for four years. In 1950 he moved to St. Paul, Alta. where he died May 25, 1960 at the age of 83. Mrs. Dalvina Malo died Feb. 18, 1977 at the age of 96. Their eight children are:

Mr. and Mrs. Richmond Malo (Dalvina Caron) 50th anniversary in 1952. Celebrated in St. Paul.

Mr. and Mrs. Richmond Malo and family of Lafond 1918. L. to R. Annette, Yvonne and Hervé's - Baby Twins, Oscar, Rose, Henri.

1956, Mr. Richmond Malo is celebrating his birthday with his new accordion accompanied by his wife.

Mr. Francis Robinson and Miss Annette Malo.

1) Oscar Malo: born in Montreal, married Julienne Jean. He passed away 1970 St. Paul — have 10 children.
2) Henry: died in 1919 at the age of 13 years old. World War I flu was the cause of this young boy's death.
3) Annette: born in Montreal in 1907, married Frank Robinson April 8, 1928, has 12 children and is living in St. Paul.
4) Rose: Born in Montreal 1908, married Eugene Foisy, has 8 children and is living in St. Paul.
5) Herve: born in Lafond 1914, married Bernadette Brault, has 6 children and is living in St. Paul.

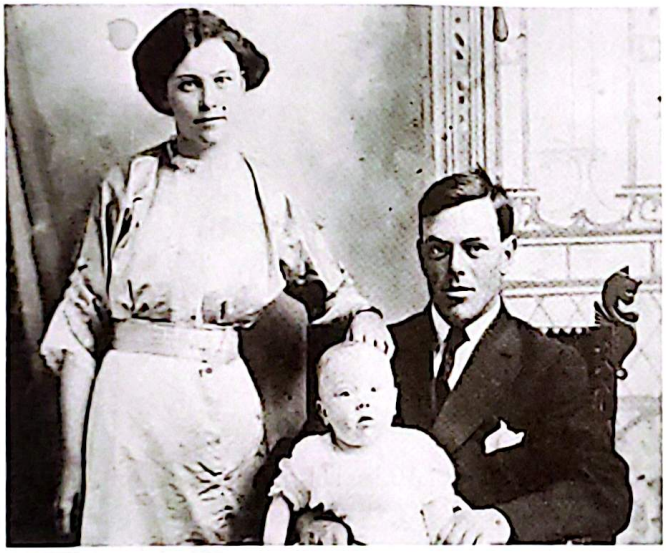
1912, arrived in Vegreville by rail, a group of French Quebecquers and homesteaded in Lafond, Alta. 1) Richmond Malo, Mrs. Richmond Malo; 2) Mr. Oscar Malo (their son); 3) & 4) Mr. and Mrs. Vaillant Court; 5) Pierre Laventure; 6) Emile Malo.

6) Yvonne: (Herve's twin), born in Lafond 1914, married Gilbert Foisy, has 6 children and lives in Edmonton, Alta.
7) Irene: Born in Lafond 1919, married Laurent Brault, has 6 children and lives in St. Paul, Alta.
8) Aime: born in Lafond 1923, married Germaine Robinson, has 3 children and lives in St. Paul, Alta.

ALPHONSE AND CANDIDE MALO

by Leonse Malo

Alphonse was the first child born of Emile and Camilla Malo on August 24, 1915. Naturally due to lack of adequate transportation he was born at home, as many were in those days. His schooling was very limited.



Mr. & Mrs. Emile Malo and baby, Alphonse, 1916.

He often said, "I only went to school three days and the teacher wasn't there." In reality Alphonse got all his schooling between the years 1923-29 at the old Lafond School. In the last two years he had to miss a lot of school because his dad was sick and, being the oldest, had to take care of the farm work. He finally left school in grade six to work at home steady.

Candide was the second child born to Octave and Emma Hurtubise on April 26, 1916. They lived in Cork. In 1928 her mother died, tearing her away from her grade 7 education to help the oldest keep house and do chores.

Alphonse and Candide got married July 14, 1940 and stayed at his parents house for the first few months until they had bought a farm, which had a log shack with a sod roof, on NE 34-56-10-4. That winter they both went north to Rocheleau Saw Mills out by Pinehurst Lake to work. In the spring they went back to the farm where they stayed and raised their family. They had five children, these are: (Roger, Marie-Ange, Paul, Lionel, Denis). After 16 years on the farm Alphonse and

This musical group includes: Wilfred Foisy with the banjo; Alphonse Malo on the violin and Archie Maclean with the accordeon.

A "caleche" used by the children when driving to school.

Candide moved to the little hamlet of Lafond where they are still living. Incidentally, the house he lives in now in Lafond is the same house he built on the farm almost 38 years ago. In Lafond, Alphonse found work as caretaker of the Lafond School, a school bus driver, and the secretary treasurer of the Lafond Credit Union.

Alphonse will always be remembered for his violin playing. He played for weddings, anniversaries, and dances for over 34 years.

Alphonse and Candide always liked to travel. In 1950, ten years after they were married they went to Vancouver for their honeymoon. Candide's dad and most of her brothers and sisters had moved down there. They drove down to Edmonton and from there they took the C.N.R. In 1950 that was quite a trip and Alphonse figured it would be the only time he would ever get a chance to go. Well, since then they've been to Vancouver over a dozen times. In 1966 they visited Vancouver Island and made their way down to Seattle to visit the exhibitions at the World's Fair. In July 1971 they headed east to Montreal, Quebec City, and followed the St. Lawrence River to the sea. In July 1975 they headed south along the Oregon coast to California and finally down to Mexico, not missing Disneyland, Reno, and Las Vegas. They both are looking forward to retirement so they can do it all over again.

THE WILLIAM MARCICHIW FAMILY

by Peter Marcichew

William Marcichiw arrived in Mundare, Alberta, on June 1, 1925 from his homeland of Poland, at the age of 16 years. Here, he worked as a farm hand until later when he undertook brush-cutting at the rate of $1.25 a day. In 1926, William worked on the railroad construction gang, as they built the Two Hills-Willingdon run. Little did he know that years later he would spend 30 years in this vicinity. In 1927, William, perchance, stopped at the John Maciborski farmstead to undertake a brushing contract, when, amongst the 2 strapping sons of the family, his eyes befell a slender, dark-haired maiden, by the name of Mary. After a delicious meal of cheese perohy William was informed, also, of Mary's ability in cookery and, as you would guess, William had the greatest appetite for the Ukrainian staples. Perhaps it was those pyrogies that made him buy a shoe-shop in Tofield and, in 1931, wed Mary Maciborski.

In 1932 on October 25, a son was born to the happy couple and nine years later, on March 24, 1941, another son, Peter, arrived.

Wedding of William Marcichiw and Mary Maciborski, 1931.

Upon arrival in Duvernay — 1951. Mary and Bill Marcichiw, son Peter sitting and Mike standing.

L to R, back row — Mary and Bill Marcichiw, Mike and Peter. 2nd row — Ronnie, Lucille Marcichiw holding Caroline, Pat Marcichiw. 3rd row — Rena, Randy, Claudette, Tammy and Murray.

After the depression years William bought another shoe-maker's shop and butchery at Busby, Alberta, and kept this adventure until 1945 when he bought Capital Shoe Manufacturing on Jasper Avenue, in Edmonton. Here he manufactured made-to-measure shoes for many a dignitary, for special occasions. But the bustle of fast-growing Edmonton was not the life-style that William wanted so, in 1948, he sold his business and again looked at prospects out of Edmonton.

So destiny, in the new year of 1951, brought the Marcichiw family to the hamlet of Duvernay as the new owners of the Riverside Hotel, which he purchased from Fred Hasey. The peaceful solidarity of Duvernay was not unfamiliar to Mary as she, in the 1920's, had often crossed the Duvernay ferry to visit her relatives — Mr. & Mrs. George Emes who were residents of Brosseau.

On arrival, Peter took it upon himself to take a census of this hamlet — population in 1951. His records showed 10 people, 3 cats and 3 dogs.

Two years later, with the onset of the plant, Duvernay had a mini-population explosion, when numerous construction people moved in. These early years brought many improvements to the hotel: water and sewer (a first in the hamlet), a new cooler which replaced the large ice-blocks which were used to cool draught beer in the hot summer days. The cooler dispensed with the laborious tasks of hauling ice from the river in the spring — up the steep banks and into the ice shed. To Peter and Mike, the advent of sewers in the hotel was a way to celebrate, as, no longer did the boys have to empty the brimming "Honey-Buckets". To Mary, the purchase of a new electric range to replace the old wood-stove was another great achievement, as, during this construction period, she had a horde of hungry boarders to feed three meals a day.

Today, many of these former boarders, still return to the Riverside Hotel to taste Mary's famous pyrogies and cabbage rolls and to chat of yester-years.

Lucille Ouellette, Mike Marcichiw at the back, Pat Watt and Doris Vincent in front 1955

Mike, in 1955 married Lucille Ouellette, built a home in Duvernay, and continued to work at the plant until his decision to move in 1965. In 1971, he passed away suddenly, in Fort McMurray, Alberta, leaving his wife and 6 children.

Peter married Pat Kretzul of Mundare and, following his older brother's example, built a home in Duvernay and worked in the plant until 1970. At present he is employed in Two Hills and is making his home there.

This year, 1980, marks Bill and Mary Marcichiw's retirement after 30 years as hoteliers, and again, this sturdy hotel has taken another renovation with son, Peter, as manager.

MR. AND MRS. ARTHUR MERCIER

by Berangere Mercier

Mr. Arthur Mercier married Miss Beland at Sainte Julie Quebec in 1898. He had a door and window factory and had a nice home. In 1908 his factory burned down, so he decided to come west instead of rebuilding. Mrs. Mercier sure didn't like the idea of leaving her nice comfortable home to come to the wildnerness of western Canada with her family of five children, but finally consented and landed in Vegreville in the late summer of 1909.

Mr. Eugene Beland, Mrs. Mercier's brother met them in Vegreville and loaded the family and belongings in a wagon pulled by a team of slow horses. They started out for Eugene's farm on the S.E. 19-56-11-W4th, 30 miles away in a blinding rain storm. They stopped off at Emery Theroux's stopping place for a much needed rest. There Mrs. Theroux made a warm fire and dried out their clothes and prepared a warm meal for them. Miss Mercier recalls that the children cried most of the way to her Uncle's farm and it was a very sad day in her mother's life.

They lived with Mr. Beland till spring. By that time Mr. Mercier had filed on the N.E. 21-55-11-W4th, and had built a nice little house and outbuildings. They were sure happy to move in their own home, far as it was from town or church.

They lived there on the homestead for a few years. Later they moved to the town of Duvernay. By that time Mr. Mercier had found out that he was a better carpenter than a farmer, so he spent most of the time away from home taking on building contracts as far away as Edmonton.

In 1913 they sold their homestead and holdings in Duvernay and moved to Edmonton where there was a big demand for experience carpenters. There Mr. Mercier helped build many prominent buildings such as the Jesuit College and many others. He also took building contracts in Morinville, Beaumont and as far north as Bluesky.

Mr. and Mrs. Mercier had a family of 10 children; Berangere, Alonzo, Rene, Lauria, Marguerite, Hazel, Gabriel, Antoine, Paul and Therese.

Mr. Arthur Mercier has a brother Joe who went to Bonnyville area and left many descendants by that name in the surrounding communities.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Mercier's daughter Berangere was 11 years old when she came to the homestead 7 miles east of Duvernay in 1909. She attended school there for 3 years. One of the teachers she remembers was Mr. Shanon. when they moved to Edmonton that was the end of her school days. She got a job as a messenger girl at $4.00 a week and attended Music and Art classes in the evenings. She was one of the first members of the Edmonton Art Club. As a member Berangere has had a very active career in two fields of art, music and painting. No doubt her mother who was versed in writing had an influence on her life. She was elected as a life time member of the club in November 1921. She took a few lessons from the president William Johnston but she considers herself largely self taught. Back in 1924 her paintings sold for $5.00 to $15.00 in most cases. Today these same paintings are worth hundreds of dollars.

In the past years she had enjoyed working in oil paintings, mainly producing landscapes and portraits of famous people. The club was commissioned to paint the oldtimers and missionaries. As she was the only Catholic present she picked Father Lacombe to paint. She had had the distinction of having two paintings stolen, one of them was the portrait of Father Lacombe, which was on display in the McDougal Memorial Chapel. She has two murials on display, one in the marion center and the other in the Catholic information center here in Edmonton.

She has been a great asset to the Edmonton Art Club, serving as press representative in 1933, vice president in 1950 to 1964, three terms as president in 1950-51 and 1961. She was treasurer in 1965 and an executive member for four years.

Miss Merciers singing career was equally as successfull as her art activities. She was one of the first singers on radio C.N.R.E. in 1922. To quote the Edmonton Journal; she enthralled all who were fortunate enough to hear the sweet tones of her soprano voice. She also sang on most of the radio stations of that time, and had her own french program on C.K.U.A.

MICKAILYK FAMILY

by Dorothy Bodnar

Metro Mickailyk and his wife Elizebeth (Twasuik) came to Canada in 1911 with their son John and settled in the Glendon area for a period of about 10 years. Then they bought land in the Brosseau district and settled on the south west shore of Lac Sante (big fish lake) in 1921.

They had a family of 5 boys: John, Mike, George, Alex and Victor and 5 girls: Mary, Annie, Stella, Jennie and Rosie.

In 1929 a tragic sorrow hit the family and they lost their three children: Jennie, Alex and Victor within a week, due to a diphtheria epidemic that had hit in the district.

Life continued on and the children grew up, married and each went their own way spreading through Alberta, British Columbia and the United States.

Mike married Dorothy Bodnar of Brosseau on June 18, 1944 in Brosseau.

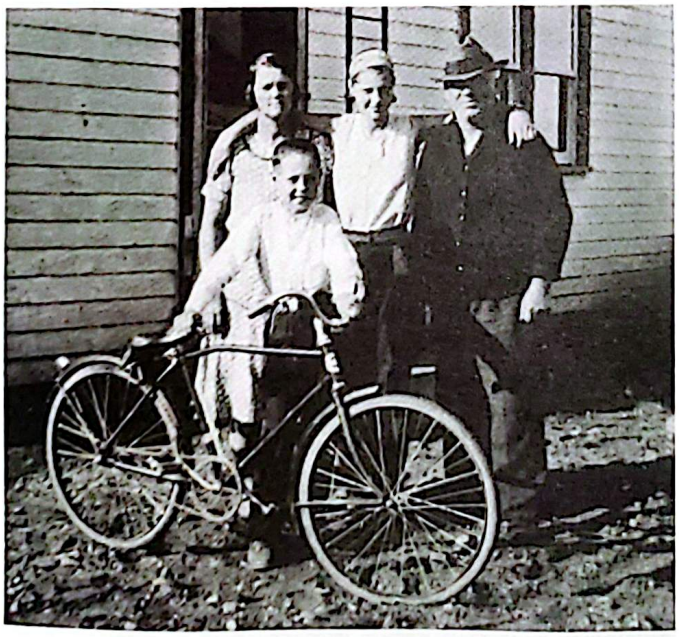
MR. AND MRS. SAMEUL MORTIMER

Mr. Mortimer was born in Perry Sound Ontario and his wife Linda was born in North Dakota U.S.A. They moved to Duvernay in 1931 to manage the Riverside Hotel. They had two girls Arla and Edna and one boy Lester, At that time there was a daily bus from Vegreville to Cold Lake and it would stop there for dinner. Sometimes they had to serve thirty meals within half an hour. They used to serve midnight lunches when they had dances in the Duvernay Hall.

One day a well known resident from Two Hills came to treat his lady friend with a meal at the cafe. They asked Arla what was on the menu for that day, she named two orders that were available. The lady looked at her for a minute then said "I'll take them both." The boy friend looked at her puzzled. When Arla told her mother what the lady had ordered, she said that's simple, we'll give half an order of each.

Mr. Mortimer died in 1933 and the family returned to Edmonton. Arla married Armand Vincent in 1934, and they farmed in Brosseau till 1951. Then they moved to Wainwright with their two children, Doris and Lester. Arla and the children now live in Edmonton. Lester Mortimer died overseas in 1944.

Edna married Bill Williams of Edmonton. They raised a family of four girls, Karen, Janice, Valerie, Jody and a son Donald. Edna was widowed in 1972 and have since married Jack Wolfe of Edmonton.



Mr. and Mrs. Mortimer, Edna and Lester. (1932)

MR. TOM MELNYCHUK

by Ann Melnychuk

Mr. Tom Melnychuk was born in Losquika, Bukovina Austria in the year of May 10, 1899. Along with his parents and 3 sisters in 1908 he sailed to Canada.

They arrived in Halifax from this port city they travelled to Thunder Bay. Here they had to stay all winter, because of the severe weather.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Melnychuk.

In 1919 Mr. Tom Melnychuk parents purchase a farm in the Brosseau area. From the time of his arrival to Canada to the year of 1920 Tom spent all his time working for the farmers in the area. In 1920 Tom purchased a farm just 2 miles north of his parents place. In the fall of 1922 he married Riyfta Sorochan.

Riyfta Sorochan entered into Canada with her mother in 1920. Ryfta's dad came to this country in 1914.

In the year 1923 Tom and wife where blessed with their first son Steve.

Tom & Riyfta lived with his in-laws till the year of 1928 at which time they bought an additional ½ section of land and built their first house.

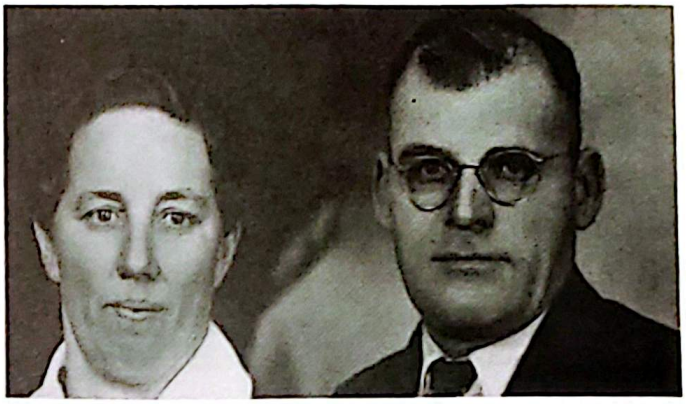
After 25 years of farming in 1948 Tom purchased a garage in the town of Two Hills. In 1955 Tom retired by selling his business and land.

The year 1963 was his greatest loss when Riyfta passed on. In 1965 Tom remarried to Mary Grekul. In December 28, 1974 at the age of 75 he joined his wife Riyfta in the everlasting peace, leaving behind his 8 sons.

Steve — Vancouver
William — Two Hills
Andy — Kamloops
Tony — Edmonton
Mike — Calgary
Peter — Edmonton
Alex — Trail, B.C.
David — Lougley, B.C.

Left to right — Peter, David, Andy, Steve, Tony, Alex, William and Mike, Mr. Tom Melnychuk.

First on left Mr. Steve Zawadiuk in Blairmore with friends.



Mr. and Mrs. Steve Zawadiuk.

Back row L. to R. — Steve and Lena Zawadiuk; Front row L. to R. — Ann, Pauline and Mary in 1937.

STEVE AND LENA ZAWADIUK

by Ann Melnychuk

Mr. Steve Zawaduik was born in Mamaestie, province of Bukovina, Austria on April 7th, 1900. Along with his parents Mr. and Mrs. Metro Zawaduik, brother Bill and sister Mary they migrated to Canada in the spring of 1910. They boarded a ship from the port of Bremnin Germany and arrived in Halifax. From there they travelled by train to Winnipeg where they were greeted by many other Ukrainian people who arrived there a few years earlier. After a brief stay over they continued travelling by train to Vegreville. Arriving at Vegreville they were met by distant relatives, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Mohaluk who hosted them for four weeks. Hearing about other relatives living not very far away they moved again. This time to Mr. and Mrs. B. Taschuk in Bellis. For four weeks they lived together until his father bought up a homestead ¼ Section 25-58-15 at Wahistoa. Here the family lived and worked hard together. There wasn't an acre of cultivation so land was cleared by hand and worked by oxen. The nearest school was "Prosvichenia" which was built in 1908 and was seven miles away. He did not attend school but worked for the nearby neighbors trying to earn every penny he could to help the family.

As he recalls he was the only one in the family that wasn't laid down with the flu of 1918. In the spring of 1920 along with a friend Mr. J. Chernichan he worked in a sawmill at Blairmore, Alberta.

Mrs. Lena Zawaduik was born in Berehmuth province of Bukovina, Austria on December 23rd, 1905. With her parents Mr. and Mrs. G. Serna and seven brothers and sister they left their homeland, arriving in Halifax in the spring of 1913. By train they travelled to Winnipeg and then on to Vegreville. They were met by her uncle and aunt Mr. and Mrs. H. Kupchenko and lived with them for two years. In 1915 Mr. G. Serna purchased a homestead at Morton more where Mrs. L. Zawaduik grew up. She attended school at Irondale for one year. Mrs. L. Zawaduik recalls that on the first day they moved to the homestead, a shack and outside oven was built and bread was baked the same day.

In November 1923 Steve and Lena Zawaduik were married and lived at Downing for five years. In the spring of 1929 they moved to Brosseau with their family, Mary, Anne, Pauline and Nick who passed away shortly after.

In 1967 they retired and moved to Two Hills. Living here for only four years he passed away in June 1971 at the age of 71.

THE MARCHENKO FAMILY

by Silvia Marchanko

John was born in Czechoslovakia in 1905, the son of Mr. Andrew Marcinko and Annie Domonkos. He went to school till he was twelve years old, as that was the age limit for schooling in the old country. He came over to Canada in the spring of 1924, landed in Montreal and came by train to St. Paul. From St. Paul he and two friends walked all the way to the Brosseau Church. It was Easter Sunday that day and the people were kind enough to give them lunch. From there John walked to Hairy Hill where he worked for Eli Eluik for awhile and then for Mike Ruptash for eleven years.

In 1935 he met a young girl by the name of Mary Holinski. Mary was born in the Luzan district in 1912, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Holinski. She went to school up to the age of fifteen years. She then helped her parents at home with the housework, cooking washing clothes by hand and scrubbing floors which was the girl's work. But she also helped out with the stooking in the fall. She and her girlfriends used to walk to picnics sometimes up to six miles and then hurry back home to help milk cows. She only had 10¢ to spend, and in those days they had to walk everywhere as hardly anyone had a car.

Mary and John were married November 15, 1936. They lived in Hairy Hill and rented 1 section of land from Mike Ruptash for one-third crop share. It was a lot of hard work for both of them but in three years they earned $2,100.00 and began looking around for land to buy. In the summer of 1939 they bought one quarter of land from Joe Brosseau for $2,100.00. They paid $700.00 as a down payment and the rest was left to start farming. The location of this quarter was NE 35-56-12-W4th.

They moved to this quarter in the fall of 1939 with only $400.00, two piggies, one cat, some household appliances and ten horses which they had bought for $1,000.00. There were no buildings on the quarter, just a well which Joe Brosseau had dug. They lived in an empty house across the road during the winter. All winter John hauled logs from the reserve by sleigh. It was difficult as there was hardly any snow on the roads, just in the ditches. But he managed to haul enough to build a grainary and the frame of the barn by April. They

Mary, John and their son Richard raising turkeys, 1958.

Mary & John Marchenko, 1967.

mud-plastered the granary and moved into it by May 1st. It was only 16ft. x 24ft. but they were happy to be in it, as it was their first house. That year, 1940, the crop was very poor, more wild oats than wheat and couldn't be sold. So John crushed it into chop and raised some pigs, but it took two years to finally earn some money out of the crop.

In 1942, they built the roof and finished the barn. They kept lots of chickens, turkeys and pigs and milked four to six cows year round. They shipped the cream to Edmonton to Swifts and Woodlands by train from Two Hills once a week. John had to leave the farm at 6:00 a.m. by horse and buggy to travel the seventeen miles to Two Hills to have the cream at the station on time. Mary was left behind to do all the chores as John didn't get back home till 11:00 a.m. In those days there was no power and no fridges, so they kept the cream in the well that Joe Brosseau had dug. In 1942 John dug another well by hand, which had a lot of water in it, enough for house use and for watering all the stock. Since there were no freezers, they had to can all the meat and poultry into jars, as well as the fruit and vegetables for use all winter.

In the spring of 1944 they started to build a house 26ft. x 28ft. out of logs and mud plaster. Before fall they mud-plastered it all by hand. After threshing they did the fine work with sand and yellow dirt. Mary had it white-washed in time for Christmas and they were very happy to move into it. They also built more buildings, a chicken coop, pig pen, garage, granaries and sheds.

Then the better times came along. In 1946 they bought their first gas tractor, a Cockshutt 30, which made field work a lot easier. No more feeding and cleaning from the horses. Also in 1948 they bought their first truck, a used Dodge. They traded it off in 1952 for a brand new Fargo.

March 1951 they were blessed with a son named Richard John. Their good neighbors and friends surprised them with a baby shower which they were very

pleased with. This event changed their lives a bit, as with a small baby in the house, all the chores had to be done on the run, but for them it was a pleasure.

In 1953 Mary's sister Medoria (Mrs. Bill Skakun) passed away at the age of 34, leaving three children — Barney aged 13, and twins Julie and Johnny aged 11. Barney was left in St. Paul with his father and uncle. The twins visited from auntie to auntie for two months. In September, it was time for them to go back to school. Their father and his sister asked John and Mary to take them into their home for awhile to send them to school in Two Hills. The first year was very hard for the children as they were left without a mother, and for Mary as she had lost her sister. John comforted them all, and in a year's time they got adjusted to the farm life and became part of the family for the next eight years. In this time they both attended school in Two Hills and graduated from grade 12 in 1961.

Julie had her first job at the Bank of Montreal in Two Hills. She later moved to Edmonton. In 1962 she married Valentine Lopatka and they are presently living in Edmonton. They have two children, Laureen and Gordon. Val is employed at Celanese Canada Limited as a registered industrial accountant. Julie is employed at the Bank of Nova Scotia as an assistant manager.

Johnny also got his first job in a bank at Stettler, but he later joined the Canadian Navy. He married Eleanor Catan and is presently living in Victoria, B.C. stationed with the Navy. They also have two children, Trevor and Margo. John is a chief petty officer with the Royal Canadian Navy.

In 1954, John and Mary bought another quarter of land for $6,000.00 cash also from Joe Brosseau, which had the crop on it. It was NW 35-56-12-W4th. That year it was a fine fall and on october 25, Sidor Fedoruk combined it for them. Out of the whole quarter they threshed 800 bushels of wheat. Also that year in December they sold 102 turkeys — over 18 lbs., 25¢ a pound under 18 lbs., 39¢ a pound. They received $587.30 for them, but that was not clear profit, as all the expenses had to be paid.

From 1954 to 1958 they bought bigger machinery, a bigger tractor, a self-propelled combine, a swather, cultivator, baler, etc., which made farming so much more productive.

Back row L. to R. Julie and John Skakun, Front row Mary, Richard, and John Marchanko (1960).

When their son Richard was nine years old, his father taught him how to drive the truck. He could barely see over the steering wheel but he learned how and was a big help to carry lunch or to take fuel to his father in the field.

They decided to put running water into the house in 1958, and to build an addition on to the house, a living room and bathroom. They also put in an oil furnace into the new basement. This was all completed with the running water in the house by 1963.

As the years went by they both worked very hard, but getting older, their health started to fail them. This is when talk of retirement started. Their son Richard graduated from grade 12 in 1969 in Two Hills. He then went on to attend N.A.I.T. as a heavy duty technology student. He graduated in 1971 with a technology ticket. That same year, John and Mary bought a house in St. Paul, thinking of retiring after fall's work in 1972.

Then tragedy struck. On May 9, 1972, John Marchenko suddenly passed away at the age of 67 from a pulmonary embolism of the lung which occurred from surgery of the hip. He was laid to rest on May 13, 1972 at the Mameistie Cemetery of Brosseau, Alberta.

To Mary and her son this shock and great tragedy was almost the end of the world. But with the help of good neighbors and friends they were able to carry on through the sad and difficult times. Without the guidance of the head of the household, it was very trying for Richard to carry on the farm with little experience. Yet he

Mary, Richard, Sylvia, Ricky & Leanne, Jan. 1979.

carried on farming the best he could until the present day.

On November 24, 1973, Richard married the former Sylvia Fryz. Sylvia was born and raised in Loon Lake, Sask. where she attended school to grade twelve. She took two years training in X-ray technology in Saskatoon, Sask. She then worked in Calgary and in Edmonton before meeting Richard. They are presently living on the Marchenko family farm. They have two children, Ricky 5 years and Leanne two years. Along with the farming trade, Richard and Sylvia own and operate

an automotive and heavy equipment repair shop, called "R. & S. Service" on the home quarter.

In February 1974 Mary moved to the house she and John had bought in St. Paul. For the next seven years after many tears and sleepless nights, with God's help and her children's help, she carried on remodelling the house as he and John had planned to. During these six years her life was sad and lonely. However, as the years went by, she broke her vow of not remarrying, as life must carry on. In July 1979 she married Emerson Baker and they are presently residing in St. Paul and continuing their retired life.

HOLINSKI FAMILY

by Sylvia Marchenko

Mr. and Mrs. William Holinski came over to Canada from Austria in 1910. They were married in the old country in 1903. Mrs. Holinski was the former Anna Popowich. When they came over to Canada they had one son, Nick, who was four years old at the time. They settled on a homestead in the Luzan district.

They had a family of eight children — Nick, Harry, Mary, Metro, George, Rosie, Medoria and John. One by one they all got married and are on their own. Medoria passed away in 1953, and Nick passed away in 1978.

Mr. William Holinski passed away on August 1, 1944. After he passed away Mrs. Anne Holinski moved to the Lafond district where she resided until she passed away on November 13, 1958.

LEO MARCEAU AND FAMILY

by Mrs. Leo Marceau

We arrived in Brosseau from Fort Kent, Alberta, April 27, 1945 with four children. We had bought SW¼ 2-56-12-W4th and SW LL-56-12-W4th from Mr. Jean Baptist Vincent. Mr. J.B. Brosseau's quarter separated them. On the home place was a large house, which we were told had been built in 1905, but remodelled during the ensuing years. It was comfortable — a good place to raise a family. We had a small hill on one side and a large slough not far from the house. The first year, we were dried out, but we had very good crops for many years.

In 1946, our fifth child was born in the Vegreville General Hospital because Two Hills was just building theirs.

Our children went to a one-room school, St. Laurent, where Miss Carmen Brosseau was the teacher. When this country school was closed they were bussed to Two Hills. Our parish group decided to build a separate school in Brosseau. After meetings with the School Board and The Department of Education we went ahead to build a two-room school and a beautiful auditorium, which the people of Brosseau never had before. This was

The Leo Marceau family in Brosseau in 1951 — Back row: from left — Leo, Leo Jr. and Therese; front row: Richard, Lucette Marceau, Louise and Roger.

accomplished by everyone helping with money and many hours of labor.

We lived 16 years on the farm. We thought Brosseau was a real nice place and the people were friendly. After our three boys left for college we remained in the chicken and egg business for a short time. Then we sold our farm to Mr. Rene Goudreau and bought the Brosseau store from Alex Werenka. We also had the post-office for 7 years. We sold this business to Mr. A. Duperron in 1968.

Leo and Lucette Marceau in 1979 with Richard's children — from left Paul (9), Cara lee (13), Robert (10).

Our first move was to Edmonton where we lived for one year and a half; then to Camrose, where we are residing at the present.

Our children are all married except Louise who is in Bethany Nursing Home in Camrose. Our oldest son, Leo, died in an accident May 27, 1965. Our daughter, Therese lives in Holland; Richard in Peace River, Alberta, and Roger in Abbotsford, B.C. We have 9 grandchildren.

The living was good in those days. We still have many friends in Brosseau whom we remember. We are also very proud of the achievements of our children.

STEVEN AND RAIFTA NEHOLAICHUK

YOUR ROOTS

The place, Oroskyny Bukovina
The year, nineteen hundred nine.
Saw an exodus of its people,
Like no other time.

Escaping the yoke of the cruel landlord,
Tens, hundreds of Ukrainians
Fled their homeland, on board
Creaky slow steamers — America bound.

A wee bundly of possessions,
A mere sack by each side,
They braved the Atlantic,
With God for their guide.

The journey seemed endless,
A wave upon wave,
Forced steamers to roll fiercely,
Day upon day.

As the mighty steamers tossed
Climbing each new crest,
Its passengers prayers
Reached out to the West.

Aboard one of these steamers,
Two families came —
The Geo. Bachiels, Metro Nekolaichuks,
Exacting by name.

One had a young daughter,
The other a fine son,
Upon their journey's end
Two hearts became one.

Stephen and Raifta,
Exchanged marriage vows then,
In Brosseau Alberta
They made their new home.

Brosseau, Alberta,
Their gem of the West,
Brosseau, Alberta,
The place they loved best.

Stephen and Raifta,
Labored hard, labored long
Hour upon hour,
Clearing land without song.

For 'twas back breaking work,
By the sweat of their brow,
Furow by furrow
Behind a hand plough.

Acre by acre,
The sod was slowly turned,
Yes, acre after acre,
While their hearts yearned.

For long lost kinfolk,
Back home in Ukraine,
The orchards in blossom,
The songbird in spring.

But their hearts were committed
To their new found land
Canada, their adopted country
So bountiful, so grand!

Here they remained
With their family of seven
Laboring hard, praising God,
For few blessings they were given.

For inclement weather,
Ruined crops some years,
The 30's Depression
Brought many tears.

But they never gave in,
Staunchly stood each test,
Killer World War I influenza,
Was one of the worst.

Their strong family love,
Shall be remembered ever,
Their words of reassurance,
Forgotten never.

It is ten long years since
We've lost our Mother,
And forty some years' since
We lost our Father.
Our sister Anna has just been
Laid to rest.
God, please God, grant eternal peace.

There's a certain emptiness
In our lives since you've gone,
A deep disturbing loneliness
That often comes on.

Your love now has blossomed
Into a stately family tree,
Where you began with seven
We are more than seventy.

Our grand family tree
Sprang from far and wide,
It's expressing our joys,
It's expressing our pride.

We've built our mosaic,
As fine as can be,
Boastful of love and unity,
In one extended family —
The Nekolaichuk clan
May God guide and bless us everyone.

Dedicated to Stephen & Raifta Nekolaichuk's grandchildren and great grandchildren.

ALPHONSE OUELLETTE

by Sylvio Ouellette

Mr. Alphonse Ouellette was born on August 23, 1872 in St. Onesime, Kamouraska County, Province of Quebec. His wife, nee Vitaline Duval, was born in Manchester, New Hampshire, U.S.A. on March 6, 1867. Alphonse and Vitaline were married in Manchester on August 30, 1895.

Mr. and Mrs. Alphonse Ouellette.

Mr. Alphonse Ouellette and daughter Marie Rose.

In 1910, they arrived with their nine children in Brosseau where they homesteaded on Section 28, Township 56, Range 12, West of the 4th meridian. Two years after their arrival, on April 12, 1912, Vitaline died at the age of 44 years. Alphonse then sold his land in 1914 to Mr. Alphonse Gallant and he and his family moved to SE 4-56-12-4. This land had been bought from Mr. Edmond Brosseau.

In 1930, Alphonse left Brosseau to live in Grand Centre and leased his land to his two sons, Sylvio and Adelard. Adelard then bought this section of land in 1934 and resided there until 1960 when he moved to St. Paul.

SYLVIO OUELLETTE

by Sylvio Ouellette

I started to go to school when I was seven years old. We had about a mile and a half across country to walk to school. I made my grade eight. In those days grade eight was the highest they were teaching in country schools.

I was fifteen when I quit school. The teacher that we had was very strict. If we had done something wrong he

Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Chretien (nee Marie Rose Ouellette) on their wedding day.

Mr. and Mrs. Sylvio Ouellette (nee Gemma Lord) on their wedding day, October 12, 1937. Present on the right J.B. Vincent (kneeling), Mrs. J.B. Vincent, Florien St. Hilaire and Omer Theroux (on car), Mrs. Adelard Ouellette, Louis Grenier, Mrs. Bernadette Theroux, Mrs. and Mr. Lord. On the left — kneeling, Mr. Lapierre, Mr. Alphonse Ouellette.

would warn us the first time, but if it happened too often we had the strap. I remember one time after the summer vacation when we went back to school we were all happy. What happened during the summer was the school trustees had hired a couple of men to dig a well and they had used the teacher's strap to make hinges for the cover of the well. But our happiness didn't last very long. After a few days of schooling the teacher sent me and one other boy in the bush to get a couple of willow branches about the size of my little finger and about two feet long. Our happiness was over when we had a little crack across the finger. It was worse than the strap. It was making Bo.Bo.

Marie and Telesphore Lord.

After I had quit school I worked for my Dad. In 1925 I went to work in Saskatchewan for a couple of years. I came back in 1926 and then I worked a couple of years for my brother-in-law, Gaston Bachelet.

In 1930 I started farming on my own. I bought some horses and rented land from Mr. Chagnon and also from my Dad. I was staying with my brother Adelard until I met my wife Gemma in 1936 and got married in 1937. My wife was only 18 months old when her father and mother, Telesphore and Marie Lord, and her grandmother and five of their children came to Alberta in 1919

Telesphore and Marie Lord, Golden Anniversary, August 5, 1958.

on account of her mother's health. They went and stayed with one of her Uncles, Napoleon Baudet at Munson for about a year and from there they went to Lafond for 2 or 3 years where one daughter and one son were born. Mr. Lord was a carpenter and was working in St. Paul. From Lafond they moved to Beauvallon for 3 years and lived on a farm. Another son was born but lived only one day. They moved back to Lafond again for 2 years where another daughter was born then they moved to St. Paul.

The Sylvio Ouellette Family in 1975. Back left to right - Bert, Urbain, Norman, Vitaline, Gaetan, Ubald. Seated - Gemma and Sylvio Ouellette. Front - Gregoire, Vital and Mederic.

Mr. and Mrs. Sylvio Ouellette on their 40th wedding anniversary, 1977.

In 1948 we purchased our first little tractor, a Model S Case, and a three bottom plow.

In 1951 my father- and mother-in-law built a little house not far from ours and lived with us for 15 years. After that they went to the old folks home. We celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in August 1958. All the parishioners were invited to the party which took place in our home.

We bought our first car in 1952. It was a four door Chevrolet and in the summer we went to Regina to celebrate the Golden Anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Adelard Bechard, my brother Adrien's father- and mother-in-law.

Sylvio and Gemma raised their family of 8 sons and 1 daughter on this farm. He built his home in 1939, adding a few sections as the family grew. He also built his own barn, garage and other farm buildings. Sylvio, with the help of his sons, farmed this land until December 1, 1969 when he moved to the town of St. Paul.

In 1973, Sylvio sold SE 9-56-12-4 to his nephew, Gerald Ouellette. He still owns NW 4-56-12-4 which he now uses as a summer resort.

All of Sylvio and Gemma's children are married. They are the grandparents of 21 youngsters.

They had a family of 9 children. They are: Gaitan, married Candide Boulianne on August 17th, 1960; Vitaline, married Edward Dubrule on July 4th, 1961; Norman, married Jacqueline Dubrule on August 4th, 1963; Bertrand, married Jeannette St. Geilais on December 17th, 1965; Ubald, married Jacqueline Poulin on June 8th, 1968; Urbin, married Therese Routhier on August 9th, 1975; Mederic, married Doris Bussiere on November 13th, 1974; Gregoire, married Annette Brousseau on October 22nd, 1977, Vital, married Colleen McDonald on August 19th, 1978.

ADELARD OUELLETTE

by Fernand Ouellette

Adelard, son of Alphonse Ouellette and Vitaline Duval, was born in St. Onesime, Comte Kamouraska, Quebec on Wednesday, February 21, 1900, twenty minutes after the birth of his twin sister, Sylva. (She later married Gaston Bachelet and lived in Brosseau until she passed away.)

Seated — Adelard Ouellette and Helene Ouellette. The sons (L to R) — Andre, Fernand, Roger, Gerald. The daughters (L to R) — Bibiane, Lucille, Gisele. Taken in 1959.

In 1909, Alphonse was attracted to the West by the lure of cheap land and plenty of space for a growing family. With some livestock and household possessions he boarded the train for Vegreville, Alberta. His son Adelard was a stow-away and whenever the trainman made his inspection tour Adelard would hide. From Vegreville they drove to Brosseau, where relatives awaited them. Next year, in 1910 the rest of the family joined them.

It was true that there was cheap land, however, most of their money had been spent for the fare and expenses to reach their destination. They had to live with Uncle August Ouellette on N½ 28-56-12 W4 until Alphonse could buy SE¼ 4-56-12 W4.

Adelard Ouellette and Helene Grenier December 28, 1926.

Adelard Ouellette — co-foreman with Lloyd Cartier when building the school, 1954.

In 1917 Adelard and his brother, Adrien, boarded a train to find employment in Saskatchewan. They worked on the Bechard farm, near Regina, for approximately nine years.

Adelard returned to Brosseau where he married Helene, daughter of Joseph and Naomie Grenier was born in Montreal on September 21, 1903 and had come to Brosseau with her parents in 1916.

Adelard rented land from his father-in-law, SE¼ 14-56-12 W4 for a year and then SW¼ 36-56-12-W4 from Alphonse Brosseau for three years. At this time he lived in the Brosseau house in the hamlet. In 1930, when his father left for Grande Centre, Adelard and his brother, Sylvio, leased the homestead and in 1934 he bought it.

During the 30's life carried on without much money but the family never went hungry. Entertainment was attending local dances and parties and the occasional movie in the parish hall, shown by an itinerant projectionist. There was always time for visiting.

Taken in 1976
The house where Adelard Ouellette was born on February 21, 1900 at St. Onesime, Quebec, and still in use by a Ouellette family.

Adelard became trustee of the St. Laurent Separate School which opened its doors in 1954. He was assistant-foreman during its construction and spent most of his time at the site supervising and helping the volunteer helpers who were donating their time. Fernand, Andre and Bibianne attended this school until their graduation from Grade 9.

In 1955 Adelard, along with the Cartier brothers — Lloyd and Joe and Zoel Robinson formed the Car-Ouells Construction Company in St. Paul. When considering his move to St. Paul, in 1960, he built a house where he and Helene would retire. "Man proposes, but God disposes." Helene after a long struggle with cancer passed away on September 9, 1960.

Bibiane moved to St. Paul and kept house for her father while she finished school and in 1963, she enrolled at Reeve's Business College in Lloydminster. Fernand, having married Doris Brault that summer, moved into the house and kept Adelard on as a member of the household.

Taken in 1976
The barn that was being built in 1909 when Alphonse Ouellette left Quebec to come to Brosseau.

Adelard sold his share of the company in the early 70's. He kept on carpentering until he decided to retire. That summer he went for a trip to his home place in Quebec. He visited the house where he had been born in 1900 and which is still being habited by Ouellette's. The barn, which they were building when they left in 1910 is still being used.

In 1978, thinking he would enjoy the company of older people, he moved to Sunnyside Manor, a Senior's Citizen's home, in St. Paul. In the summer of 1979, because of dizzy spells and weakening legs, he was placed in the Parkland Nursing Home.

Adelard was always energetic and young at heart. Even today he refers to the residents of the home as "older" people, many of whom are younger than he is.

This is the chronicle of Adelard and Helene's children:

October 30, 1927 — Jean Marie — died February 16, 1950

October 3, 1929 — Roger, married Barbara Kacor December 9, 1954, have 7 children; Valerie 1955; Sandra 1956; Charlene 1958; Rodney 1960; Helen May 1961; Kevin 1963; Glenn 1965.

Every New Year's Day Adelard and Helene had a family supper in their house. They would invite friends from the locality for the evening, during which time they would dance, sing, play cards and imbibe of the juice.

A MAN CALLED MIKE

When I first met Mike was on E24
Where fire had swept through and it left a gore
A tradesman of note in that dismal mess
But the way he worked, he knew our distress.

A foreman's triangle he got after that
And proud he was to wear his hat.
His active mind he threw in the fight,
And the ideas that came forth were to set the plant right.

High cost problems were his special diet
And when he was finished, the area was quiet.
After the first success there were many to issue
Devising new ways to get the sand through.

His special delight was to beat engineers
A separate species he regarded as queers.
His practical approach, and his knowledge of steel
Were his strength to keep him on a straight even keel.

He was strong in work as he was in play
Kid's hockey he'd referee early in the day.
Their baseball he'd coach and assist where he could,
In soccer and football, and field trips to the wood.

Men's fastball required a shot in the arm,
So Mike got a few from down South on the farm.
And with tradesmen created a high-spirited team
Which win, lose, or draw, his face would still beam.

Casey Stengel had nothing on him.
In every rhubarb he was in on the swim.

A good mixture of Sportsman and workman he had,
No wonder that now so many are sad.

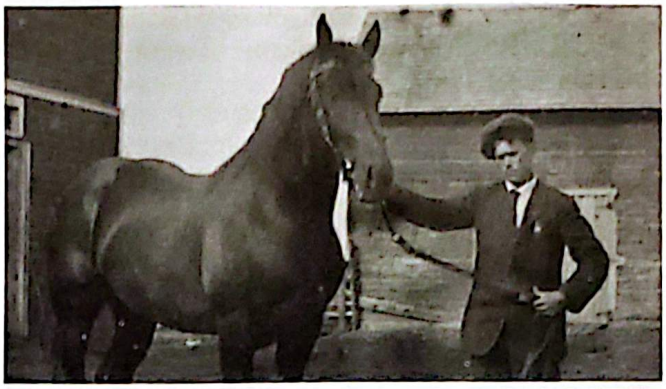
The father of six, and a lonely wife
Were the mainstays of this man's life.
Such a man as this stands very high
Though Never really in the Public eye.

Men such as this leave records behind
Their boots so large that you cannot find
A replacement, whom we will all like to measure
Up to a man called Mike.

So accept these words, this prattle, this poem,
Though missed by many, missed most at home.
Your family we'll help in any way that you like
Because you were the man, the man called Mike.

In rememberance of Mike Marchichiw

Adelard Ouellette's sawmill.



Adelard Ouellette's Stallion.

The festivities would last all night and many would leave after Helene had served a breakfast of bacon and eggs. It was not fear of being caught for impaired driving that the guest stayed but it was customary.

Adelard had a sawmill. He made all the lumber to build his house and other necessary buildings on the farm. He was a Jack-of-all-trades. He would shoe horses and did a lot of blacksmithing for the people of the neighborhood. He was called upon to take care of sick animals so you can say he was the local Veterinarian. For many years he ran the threshing outfit for Albert Coutu, until his boys were old enough to run it themselves.

Adelard had a pure bred stallion and every Friday morning you would see him on his 2-wheeled cart going to Champlain area where services were rendered.

Most clothing was sewn by Helene; it was not unusual to see her at her sewing machine until late at night. Every Spring the children had new jackets made from material which previously had served other purposes.

Eight children were born to Helene and Adelard. They were: Jean-Marie, Roger, Gisele, Lucille, Gerald, Fernand, Andre and Bibiane. The older ones attended school in Brosseau and the younger ones started in Two Hills.

In 1948 Roger left home to work for Canadian Utilities, Alberta Power, a company he is still working for.

In the fall of 1949, Jean-Marie went to work in bush-camps near Prince George, to make extra money, as he was engaged to Ruth Wirachowski, and was planning to marry in 1950. However, on February 16, Jean-Marie was killed accidentally.

Three months later, Louis Grenier, Helene's brother passed away. The double tragedies took their toll on her health.

November 17, 1931 — Gisele — married Bernard Weir.

November 30, 1932 — Lucille — married Mike Marcichiw October 15, 1955, widowed October 11, 1971, has 6 children: Claudette 1956; Ronald 1957; Randle 1959; Rena 1962; Carolyn 1966 and Janice 1968.

April 25, 1936 — Gerald, married Gloria Bykewich June 21, 1975, have 2 children: Trevor 1976 and Melenie Anne 1980.

November 29, 1939 — Fernand — married Doris Brault June 29, 1963, have 4 children: Paul 1964; Denis 1965; Louis 1966 and Marcel 1968.

Adelard Ouellette and his first-born — Jean-Marie who passed away, February 16, 1950.

Jean-Marie Ouellette with Ronnie Didier, 1949.

April 30, 1942 — Andre — married Helena Bergeron July 7, 1962, have 2 children: Mona 1970 and Dean 1971.

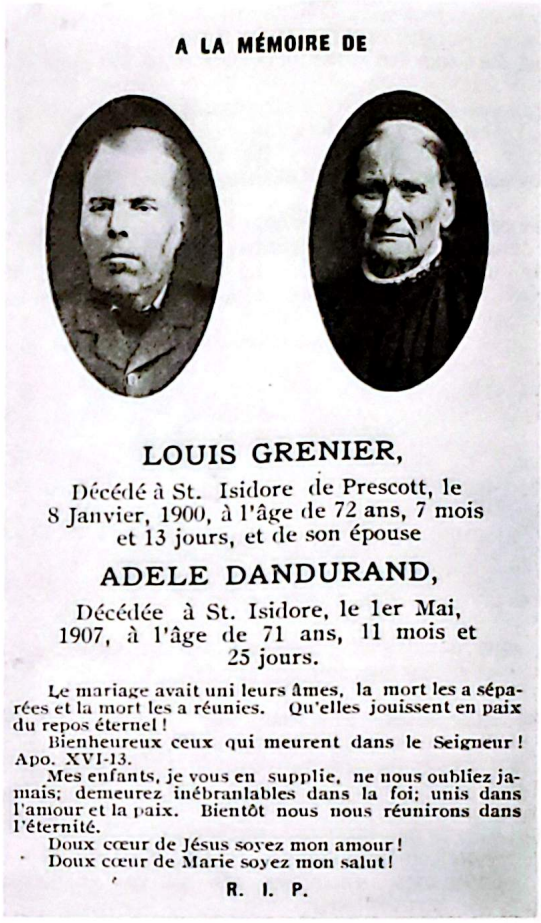
November 9, 1944 — Bibiane — married Nick Tarasiuk May 22, 1965, has 2 children Nicole 1970 and Dean 1971.

Adelard has also the joy of seeing 4 great-grandchildren.

THE GRENIER FAMILY

by Juliette Grenier & Lucille Marcichiw

Joseph Grenier was the son of Louis Grenier and Adele Dandurand of St. Etienne de Beauharnois, P.Q. He married Neomie Legault, also from Quebec.



A LA MÉMOIRE DE

LOUIS GRENIER,

Décédé à St. Isidore de Prescott, le 8 Janvier, 1900, à l'âge de 72 ans, 7 mois et 13 jours, et de son épouse

ADELE DANDURAND,

Décédée à St. Isidore, le 1er Mai, 1907, à l'âge de 71 ans, 11 mois et 25 jours.

Le mariage avait uni leurs âmes, la mort les a séparées et la mort les a réunies. Qu'elles jouissent en paix du repos éternel!

Bienheureux ceux qui meurent dans le Seigneur! Apo. XVI-13.

Mes enfants, je vous en supplie, ne nous oubliez jamais; demeurez inébranlables dans la foi; unis dans l'amour et la paix. Bientôt nous nous réunirons dans l'éternité.

Doux cœur de Jésus soyez mon amour!

Doux cœur de Marie soyez mon salut!

R. I. P.

In memory of Louis Grenier, deceased 8 Jan. 1900 and Adele Dandurand 1st May, 1907.

In the spring of 1916, Joseph and Neomie Grenier left Montreal on doctor's advice to seek a better climate as both were chronic asthmatics. They had five children: Louis, Juliette, Rene, Helen, Gilberte and Roger.

Mr. Dorais, from Brosseau, had visited Mr. Grenier and described the climatic conditions and his homestead in the West. This interested Mr. Grenier immensely and a trade was negotiated — Mr. Dorais' homestead, SE¼ 14-56-12-W4th for Mr. Grenier's holdings in Montreal.

In March 1916, Mr. Grenier and his oldest son, Louis, came to Brosseau to prepare the way for Mrs. Grenier and family who arrived on April 1st. All except Juliette had arrived in Vegreville where he met them. He was driving a team of black horses — Mr. Coutu's Barney and Mr. Therien's Bob. They moved into a log shack by Little Fish lake (now called Brosseau Lake) and took up farming, an occupation none had the experience for,

which is perhaps the reason why the boys would not settle on the farm. The first years were not productive, drought frost and hail etc.

Juliette came to join the family in July 1916; she had stayed behind to complete her studies. Then she had to attend the Vegreville Convent to learn English and prepare herself to earn a living. She had no intention of staying in the West at that time. She taught in private schools for a few years and, in 1929, returned to Montreal because of failing health and lived there for 18 months. After her return to Brosseau, she took up dressmaking, and then went to Edmonton to resume this trade until she moved to Vancouver where she has now retired. She DOES visit the East but always comes back!

On May 13, 1922 Mr. Grenier passed away after a lengthy illness. Then Louis left for California where he lived for 12 years. Roger took over the running of the farm while Rene worked at different jobs in the St. Paul area.

Louis Grenier — typical pose, 1942.

On September 23, 1928 Roger died from Septic Poisining at the age of 20.

Helen was the first to marry on December 28, 1926. She married Adelard Ouellette in Brosseau. Of this union eight children were born. She passed away September 9, 1960.

On January 15, 1929, Gilberte married Fortunat Charron. They established themselves in St. Brides, Alberta, and then, 1945 moved to Vancouver where she is still living. Fortunat has passed on. They had 6 boys.

Rene farmed in Brosseau for a few years on his farm, S½ 13-56-12-W4th. He claims he was a mixed farmer — 3 days on the farm and 4 days in the beer parlor! After selling his farm in 1936 he spent a year in Vancouver and worked in the mines at Stewart, Tofino and Pinchi Lake (in B.C.) He enlisted in Vancouver November 12, 1942 in the Royal Canadian Engineers. The first thing he did when he came back from the army was marry his former sweetheart Miss Celestine Robin, who was a teacher at Champlian School for many years. They moved away to Kimberly B.C. where he worked till his retirment in 1967. In the meantime Celestine took on a new trade. For a pastime while Rene worked in the mines she built her own home and enjoyed every bit of it.

Having disposed of the farm in the mid-thirties, Mrs. Grenier retired in a little house in Brosseau, which had heretofore been at the disposal of the village blacksmith. Juliette and Louis, who had by now returned from California, moved in with her.

On June 29, 1943 Mrs. Grenier passed away suddenly. Juliette left for Edmonton and Louis for Edson where he passed away May 26, 1950.

From right to left — J.B. Brosseau, Joe Brosseau and Mr. Azarie Venne carrying Mrs. Grenier's casket out of her house for burial, 1943.

HISTORY OF GRENIER'S FAMILY

by Juliette Grenier & Lucille Marcichiw

In the Spring of 1916 Joseph & Naomi (Legault) Grenier left Montreal on doctor's advise to seek better climate, as both were chronic asthmatics. They had five children — Louis, Juliette, Rene, Hélène, Gilberte & Roger. They settled on a farm in Brosseau. The first few years were not very productive, drought, frost etc. In May 1922 the father passed away, after a lengthy illness. Louis then left & went to California where he lived for 12 years. Roger took over the running of the farm while Rene was working at different jobs in St. Paul. Juliette taught in a private school for a few years and in 1929 returned to Montreal for failing health & lived there for 18 months.

Mrs. Naomie and Mr. Joseph Grenier with their sons — Louis, Roger, Rene taken on the farm about 1920.

The Grenier girls — Helen Ouellette, Gilberte Charron, Juliette Grenier in the twenties.

Marie Louise Lapierre with her husband to be, Eugene Ouellette before they were married in 1908.

Left to right — Rene Grenier, Helen Grenier, Eugene Theroux, Maria Theroux, Juliette Grenier, Alex Kabage, seated — Sylva Ouellette.

After returning to Brosseau, took up dressmaking & then went to Edmonton to resume this trade until moving to Vancovuer in 1948.

In 1926 Helen married Adelard Ouellette, whose union produced eight children. In 1928 on Sept. 23rd Roger passed away after a very short illness. In Jan. 15, 1929 Gilberete married Fortinat Charron. They had six boys. In 1945 they moved to Vancouver where they still live. Mother died suddenly June 29, 1943.

In 1950 tragedy struck the family when Jean Marie son of Helene was killed accidentally on February 16, 1950. Three months later, Louis also passed away on May 26, 1950.

After a period free of deaths & tragedy Helene after a long battle with cancer passed away on Sept. 9, 1960.

EUGENE OUELLETTE

by Eugenie McCullough

In 1904, Eugene Ouellette, his father Ferrier and his uncle Auguste came to reside in Brosseau, Alberta.

Eugene was born June 9th, 1885 in Farnham, P.Q. His mother was Phelanise Chevalier.

When Eugene was six yers old, his mother died and the family moved to the State of New Hampshire. Most of his school years were in the U.S.A.

After graduating from the Manchester College, he and his father decided to pioneer in Alberta.

Eugene Ouellette was a young man who served his community to the best of his ability.

Besides teaching school in Duvernay, he was the Commissioner of Oaths for Brosseau, Duvernay and surrounding districts. He was an Official Auditor, and though not a gun-toting man served as Sheriff for six years.

Eugene was an admirer of the Canadian stateman and first French-Canadian Prime Minister of Canada, Sir Wilfred Laurier. Always keen on politics, he and friends often gathered together to debate the political issues of the times.

Eugene married Marie-Louise Lapierre, July 12th, 1910. Marie-Louise along with her parents, brothers and sisters had come from St. Malo P.Q. and settled in Duvernay in 1903 (N.W.T.)

Marie-Louise was mid-wife and helped many babies in and around Brosseau. Both were strong supporters of their Catholic Parish. Every Sunday Eugene played the organ at the church and Marie-Louise sang with the choir. Christmas Midnight Mass was always looked forward to. Old-timers still recall the music supplied on these occasions by Mrs. J.B. Vincent on the organ, Dr. Hardy with his trumpet and Eugene with his violin.

After a few years Eugene took a teaching position in Beauvallon, a neighboring community and moved his family there. Again they were both involved in community work. When Spanish Flu broke out in the area, they

Mr. F.X. Lapierre when he was 96, Marie Louise Simon 60, Therese Chester 35, Eugene Chester 19, and Glen Chesther 14 days old. (5 Generation) March 29/53.

Marie Louise Simon with Eugene, Therese, Glen and baby Ben Chester, when he was three weeks old.

Mr. and Mrs. Alphonse Simon and family. From L. to R. Irene, Albina, George, Therese, Angele and Eugenie.

would get into their model T Ford car and go to their neighbors' to help. Eugene would do the farmer's chores while Marie-Louise would prepare hot soup for the sick.

Eugene contacted the flu and died in the hospital at Vegreville, Alta., December 20th, 1918. He was thirty years old. He was buried in the Vegreville Catholic Cemetery.

Besides his wife, he left four little girls — Irene - Albina - Thérèse - Eugenie.

Life went on for Marie-Louise and on November 24th, 1920, she married Alphonse Simon.

Alphonse was a returned soldier having served in the French Army during the first World War. He was seriously wounded in 1917. Due to his wounds he was unable to return to the front and was discharged. France honored him by awarding him the Croix de Guerre for service above and beyond the call of duty.

After their marriage, Alphonse and Marie-Louise farmed in several different districts — Beauvallon, Brosseau, Duvernay and Lafond, Alberta.

Alphonse was a Journeyman carpenter and for two years they lived in Trail, B.C. where he worked at his trade. In 1943, the family moved to Edmonton where he was steadily employed as a foreman carpenter with the Provincial Government until his retirement in 1963.

Besides raising their four Ouellet girls, Alphonse and Marie-Louise had three children: Eugide Jean, George Aime, Angele.

Alphonse Simon passed away November 14th, 1968 after suffering a serious stroke. He was buried in Holy Cross Cemetery, Edmonton.

Eugide Jean Simon — deceased — June 11th, 1922.

Simon.

George-Aimé married Helen Hudson and have three children, Gerard, Paulette and Gaye. George died April 19, 1980.

Angéle married George Kathrein and have two children, Simon and Sandra.

Ouellet.

Irene married Michel Jallot and have one son, Raphael.

Albina married Alcide Foisy and have four children, Victor, Georgette, Raymond and Armand.

Thérèse married Richard Chester and have three children, Eugene, Joyce and Gloria.

Eugenie married Edgar McCullough and have two children, Richard and Donald.

GEORGE AND GINEA ORLESKI

by Ann Smith

George and Ginea were born in the province of Bukovina in the western Ukraine. They both immigrated with their parents, both leaving the old country at a very young age. They sailed from Hamburg, Germany and landed in Halifax, and then by train to Alberta. George who arrived in this country at the age of nine first settled with his father Nikolai and step-mother Annie near Hairy Hill and then moved to a homestead seven miles N.E. of Two Hills shortly after arriving in Alberta.

Ginea who was the daughter of Gowrilla and Mary Lakusta settled on a farm about two miles north of Hairy Hill.

George Orleski and his wife Ginea (Lakusta).

George and Ginea were married in 1912 and homesteaded next to his parents farm. To make some money to be able to start farming George decided to go work for the railroad near Calgary. On returning home he found his wife doing so well he turned his attention to farming for the next 48 years.

They had 13 children, 12 of whom are still living: Mary, Lena, John, Walter, Victor, Marguerite, Anne, Rosilyn, Nancy, David, Helen and Joe.

In 1960 they retired from farming and moved to Two Hills where Mrs. Orleski passed away on July 16, 1978 and Mr. Orleski resides in the nursing home and just turned 90 years old this past April.

Gowrilla and Mary Lakusta. Mrs. George Orleski's mother and father.

SYLVESTER ORLECKI

by Peter Orlecki

In Luzan, Ukraine, was a widower, Nikolai Orlecki, with 5 children, Steve, George, John, Rachel Lakusta and Martha Semaka, who married a widow, Anne Kupchenko, who had 2 sons, John and Metro. Then they had another son, Sylvester. When he was 1 year old they migrated to Canada to a homestead in Luzan, Alberta, SE ¼ 18-55-11 W4. Two more children were born, Rose and William (Bill).

Back row, left to right, 1974; Peter Orlecki, Josephine Wygera, Rosean Babiuk, Kathy. Sitting; Anne Orlecki and Silver Orlecki.

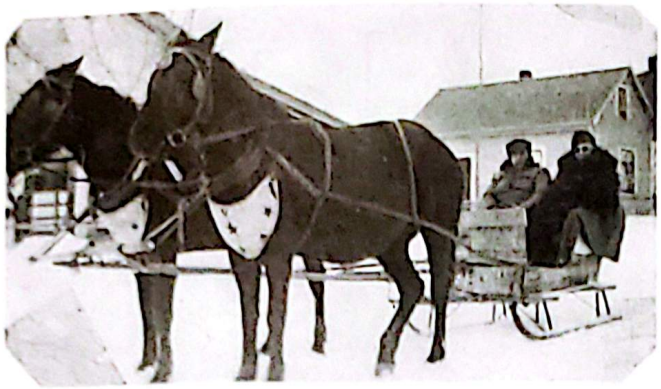
Sylvester (Silver) was born Jan. 22, 1900. He was educated at Nazir School, south of Luzan, Alta. When he left school he went to work in the mines at Drumheller where he was given the nickname "Jackson".

In 1927, he married Anne Mandruzek, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Nick Mandruzek, who was born May 30, 1905 at Pozerville, Alta.

After their marriage, Silver and Anne farmed NW ¼ 25-55-22 W4 where the twins, Peter and Paul, were born, assisted by a midwife, Mrs. George Orlecki. Later they moved to Brosseau, SW ¼ 10-56-12 W4 where Kathy was born. Another move was made to SW ¼ 36-56-12 W4, a quarter rented from A.T. Brosseau. Here Josie arrived. The depression came and for Silver the tide changed for the worst — prices for farm produce went dipping so low. In 1937 Rose Anne was born in the Vegreville General Hospital — the first time Anne had a child in a hospital.

In 1946 A.T. Brosseau sold the farm to Krezon Drapaka, so Silver and Anne located on the Dowhaniuk farm in the Two Hills area, where they lived for five years. Their last move was to the town of Two Hills when Silver gave up farming. He worked as town police and he would drive the RCMP, during the winter, on outside cases. There was always so much snow to contend with. In search of better wages, he left the family at home in Two Hills, and was employed in Pine Point, Alberta and Vancouver, B.C. He was absent for 3 years.

In 1954, he found employment in Duvernay, during the construction of Western Chemicals Ltd., then in the cell room until he retired in Two Hills in 1969. Now, he



Sylvester Orlecki driving R.C.M.P. Stan Serbe, 1951.

Silver and Anne Orlecki, 1942.

From left to right - Mr. and Mrs. Sylvester Orlecki, Mr. and Mrs. John Kupchenko, Mr. and Mrs. Metro Kupchenko, Mr. and Mrs. William Orlecki, taken by John Kupchenko's house in the 1940's.

had time to go in search of mushrooms. He knew all the edible types and where they were located.

On Dec. 9, 1972 Silver passed away suddenly, from heart trouble, in his home. Anne died of cancer Jan. 5, 1980. Both are interred in Luzan.

They are survived by: Peter: Born July 7, 1929. Kathy: Born Oct. 28, 1931, married Nick Franchuck. Josie Vegara: Born Oct. 21, 1935, lives on farm near Hairy Hill, has 4 girls. Rose Anne Babiuk: Born Dec. 23, 1937, lives in Vernon, B.C., has 4 children. Sylvester and Anne were predeceased by Elizabeth (1928-1931) and Paul (1929-1954).

PETER ORLECKI

by Peter Orlecki

The twin sons of Sylvester Orlecki and Anne Mandruzek, Peter and Paul, were born at home on July 7, 1929. Their school years were spent at Champlain School where M. Fedoruk and John Grekul were the teachers.

Peter and Paul were identical twins, of the same size and who always wore the same kind of clothes, making it difficult to identify them. This gave the boys great times puzzling everybody.

When Peter and Paul left school they were employed on CNR steel-bridge building gangs in Prince George, B.C. 1950, and other western points.

While working in North Battleford, Sask., Peter met Dorothy Hill, daughter of Russel Hill and Laura Buck. They married Dec. 1, 1951 in Prince Albert, Sask.

Now the twins separated. Paul continued with the bridge gangs and was accidentally killed when he fell off a bridge at Rainy River, Ont., Nov. 2, 1954.

After his marriage to Dorothy, Peter worked in North Battleford for 3 years, working for Massey Ferguson and I.H.C. farm implements. In 1951 he returned to Two Hills, bought a house where he still resides.

On Oct. 21, 1955 he went to Western Chemicals Ltd. and was steamfitter's helper for Rene J. Robinson for 11 months. Then he went into production where, until the present time, he still is employed.

Peter and Dorothy have 3 children: Josie: Born Apr. 8, 1953, married David Maryowich, lives in Willingdon and has two boys. David William: Born Sept. 23, 1954, is a plumber and lives at home. Douglas: Born Sept. 18, 1957, lives at home, employed by Brascan Resources, Two Hills.

Since 1956 Peter has become prominent in numerous activities: foreman of production at Two Hills Chemical plant, Two Hills councillor 9 years, deputy mayor of Two Hills, secretary for the Lions Club for 19 years, on Two Hills Hospital Board for 1 year, treasurer for Fish and Game for 12 years, member of Chamber of Commerce, arranged for the games for Minor Hockey for many years, on the executive of Two Hills Eagles 12 years.

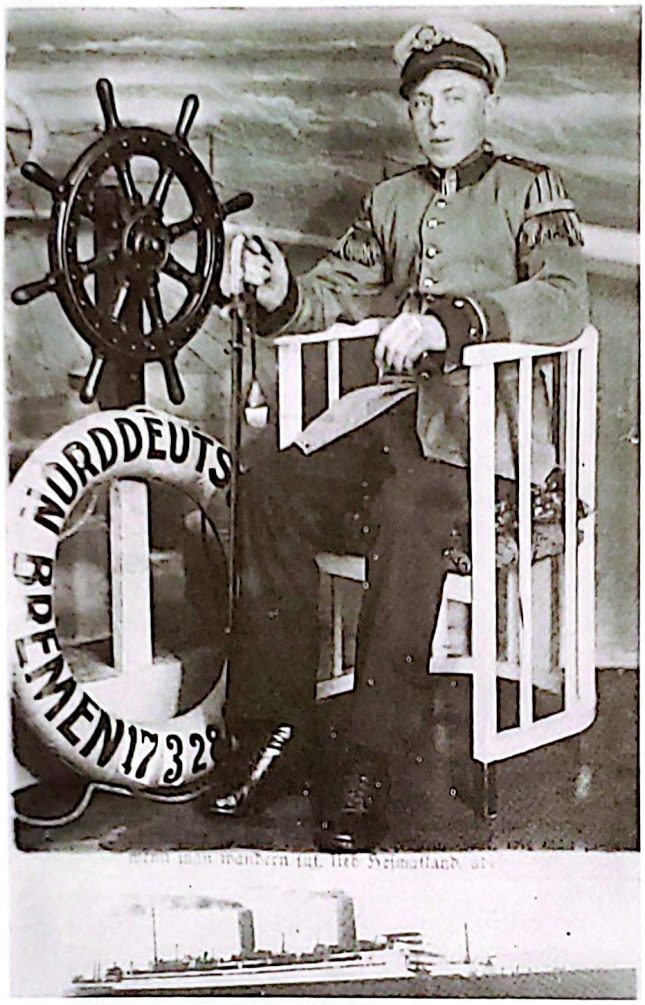
With all of Peter's involvement, it is only natural that his sons became hockey-minded, going through the ranks from the Mighty Mites to the senior teams. Bill plays for the Two Hills Eagles. Douglas played for the St. Paul Canadians and was voted the Most Valuable Player in 1976-77. He now plays efficiently for Two Hills Eagles.

Dorothy is not to be outdone by Peter. She, too, is very community minded and willing to work on many committees.

JOHN AND MARIE OBERKIRSCH

by Marie Obrekirsch

John came to Canada from Scalas, Rumania, in 1928 at 18 years of age. He worked faithfully for J.B. Brosseau from the time of his arrival until 1946.



John Oberkirsch in 1928 at 18 years of age.

In August 1939, John and Marie were married. They lived on the farm they bought from Rene Grenier in 1946 (S½ 13-56-56 W4) on the south side of what is now being called Brosseau Lake. There they raised four daughters and one son:

1 — Mrs. Eli Horbal (Gwen) living in Edmonton
2 — Mrs. Albert D'Souza (Carmen) living in Calgary
3 — Mrs. Walter Supruniuk (Susan) living in Bonnyville
4 — Mrs. Alvin Drews (Christine) living in Edmonton
5 — John jr. at home in Edmonton.

In 1956, John went to work for Western Chemicals Ltd. at their Durvernay plant and retired in 1970. He and Marie moved to Edmonton after selling their farm to Bill Maciborski in 1975. John passed away in February 1979.

Marie, while in Brosseau, was a very energetic person, working hard at whatever task she undertook. She volunteered her services on all committees to raise money for her church or community. She was a capable seamstress. She also began a mini-manufacturing industry of her own — making clothes for Barbie dolls, which she still pursues in her Edmonton home. She has even come back to her parish to offer her help during the annual Old-Timers' picnic held during the Labour Day weekend in September.

May God bless her and her endeavors!

Co-operative milking time — Susan, Carmen and Gwen Oberkirsch.

The Oberkirsch children — Susan, Carmen, Christine, Gwen and Johnny.

THE PIGEAU FAMILY

by Matilda Alain

Being the next youngest member of the family, I did not know my grand-parents at all. Dad, Alphonse Pigeau, was born on Arpil 27, 1870 and came from Timmins, Ontario. Wages and work were better in the States so he went to North Dakota, where he met and married my mother, Anna Beaudry, in a little town called Neche and worked for wages to support his family. The four older boys were born there.

In the 1890's times were getting hard, so he decided to migrate to Western Canada. Grandpa Beaudry warned them not to move — that they were wanting to

Mr. & Mrs. Alphonse Pigeau on their wedding in Neche N.D. 1891.

go to a lousy God-forsaken country. Dad had had enough of North Dakota with its fierce sand storms and tornadoes; sometimes they could not see one foot in front of their eyes.

Dad's sisters, all married to the Foisy brothers. They had come earlier and settled in what is known today as Foisy, Alberta. They made it sound quite nice and easy, land to be had for the asking, in a land of sunshine.

In April 1902, the family packed up and took the train to Edmonton where Dad met them. He had come earlier, found a job in a brick-yard in Fort Saskatchewan and had a place to live. My brother, Urgele, was born there on August 16, 1903. There now were five boys in the family: Elie, the oldest, Ernest, Willie, O'Neil and Urgele. In 1904 Dad filed on a homestead about ten miles from Brosseau, a few miles west of the Foisy families. All he had was a team of horses a wagon and plow. Again he had come ahead of the family to build a home, a shack built with logs, a dirt roof, a dirt floor and blankets for the door. It was on a quarter section, SW¼ 20-55-11-W4th, all bush, no roads, forty miles from doctors and nearest train station. If they got sick they had to depend on their remedies which weren't too tasty. When babies were born, the ladies of the district and the neighbors assisted. If they had a tooth pulled out, Dad or Mom tied a string to it and yanked.

That's where my family lived for years. We last three were born on the homestead, Ida 1907, myself 1910 and brother Joseph 1913. In 1906 they built our first log school called Big Fish Lake School. We had a church in Brosseau where we all attended. The children used to put on little concerts with the help of the teachers if they stayed long enough. It was so isolated! In the summer there were picnics where everybody joined in to help and which everybody would attend.

Years passed this way. Dad could not make a go of it on his quarter of land so he had to work for wages and was gone for months at a time. My mother and brothers killed a lot of rabbits to have enough to eat. We made quite a few moves too: first to Brosseau where Dad worked for the Brosseau brothers and then back to Big Fish Lake where he rented a farm. We were so poor, but Mother would dye flour sacks to make our dresses for school.

During the Depression years there was no difference, but we had more to eat as Dad had bought a farm about 3½ miles west of Lafond in 1928. Then, we had our meat, eggs, milk and cream because we raised our own pigs and cows. What a change! Mother died on September 23, 1930 in a freak accident with her buggy. My brothers were all gone from home and on their own and all that was left of the family were Dad, Joe and me.

The Joseph Pigeau Family: back row — Laurence, Lorraine (Mrs. Wilfred Smith), Irene (Mrs. Ed Knarski), Leo. Front row — Ernest, Joe. Pigeau, Victor, Lucienne Pigeau, Marcel.

Mr. & Mrs. Urgele Pigeau, 1955.

I married Albert Brault on February 8, 1933, and Joe married Lucienne Desaulniers October 22, 1936.

When World War II came brother O'Neil enlisted. He was an engineer so was not sent overseas but was five years in the army, 1939-1944.

My dad died in Vancouver in 1945 when he was seventy-five years old. My five older brothers are also gone, so of the eight children in the family just three of us are left; Ida (Mrs. Earl Rodgers in Paddockwood, Saskatchewan), myself, Matilda Alain in Heritage Homes, St. Paul, Alberta, and brother Joe in Grande Prairie, Alberta.

My first husband, Albert Brault, died of diabetes on December 27, 1944, aged 36 years old. We had two daughters — Jeannette (born 1941 and married to Roger Theroux), Jeannine (born 1942 and married to Arnold

Mr. & Mrs. Clement Alain, 1973.

Jeannine and Jeannette Brault, 1950.

Harder of Prince George B.C.) I remarried on October 7, 1961, to Clement Alain who passed away October 19, 1975. I also have six lovely grand-children.

Mother had lost contact of her family for years and years. Mail service at that time was very independable, so letters were few and far between. It just happened that my brother, Willie, was working for Minneapolis-Moline Farm Implements in St. Paul. One day a field superintendent, Elie Beaudry, from Winnipeg, came to the shop on business. Being intrigued by the name Pigeau he asked Willie about his family, where they lived and who his mother was. He rushed to Big Fish Lake where we were living. It was a touching scene to see the reunion of brother and sister after a separation of fifty years. I can still see them embracing, kissing, laughing and crying as they greeted each other. My own eyes were over-flowing with tears at the sight.

THE PIGEON DYNASTY AT BROSSEAU ALBERTA

by Joe Pigeon

Surrounded as we are by countless ammenities, luxuries, and conveniences, it becomes increasingly difficult to fully appreciate the contributions and sacrifices of our forefathers. We reverence the memory of all those who planted our roots in this bountiful land nearly a century ago.

Ernest Pigeon and Lucienne Belland on their wedding day — July 28, 1919.

On the fourth day of May 1892, Ernest Pigeon was born near St. Sophie, Conté de Terrebonne, in the Province of Quebec where he lived for fifteen years. News of vast frontier spread through his district. Ernest and his cousin Eugene Lafortune challenged each other to set out and conquer the Western frontier. So it came to pass that in 1908 Ernest and his cousin Eugene found themselves in Alberta after a long train ride. Once having paid the fare on the stagecoach from Vegreville to St. Paul des Metis, Ernest's fortune at the time amounted to twenty-five cents.

During the first year Ernest travelled from St. Albert to St. Paul doing various jobs. When the first homesteads were offered in 1909, Ernest acquired a quarter section of land near Lafond about seven Miles from St. Paul.

By 1918 Ernest opened enough land, erected a humble home, and established a viable farming operation. Haivng endured all the natural hardships, the Province of Alberta was nearly devasted by an influenza epidemic which he, unlike countless others, was fortunate enough to survive.

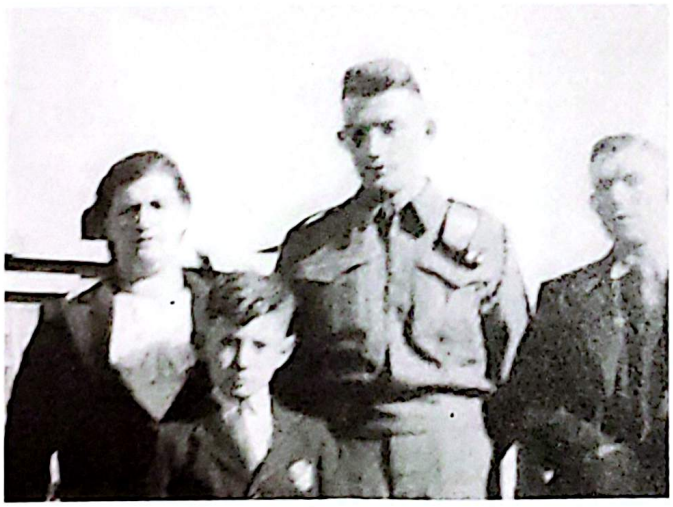
Lucienne Belland, born on the fifth day of May, 1904, at Calumet Island P.Q., vividly recalls boarding a train in Ottawa as a young child to come West. The five

day non-stop train ride to Vegreville, eating box lunches and sleeping as best they could in their seats, was only slightly more comfortable than the twelve hour ride by motorized coach from Vegreville to St. Paul des Metis. Lucienne arrived here in 1913 one year after her father Edward had left home to go West and prepare for his family to follow.

By 1918, again at the height of the Influenza epidemic, which Lucienne especially recalls was difficult for her employer Doctor Gagnon, who worked so hard during the crisis. She was earning ten dollars per month as a housekeeper. While such earnings seem marginal by comparison to our standards, it is interesting to note that at that time women's coats sold for two dollars and a dress could be bought for only two dollars and fifty cents.

On July 28, 1919, Father Tessier officiated at a ceremony joining Lucienne and Ernest in Wedlock. The young bride's wedding gown (see Picture) was purchased for four dollars and fifty cents. During the festivities that followed some recall purchasing twelve ounces of "moonshine" for fifty cents to help celebrate the event.

Ernest and his cousin Eugene owned and operated a Livery Stable in St. Paul while still attending to their respective farms until 1926. Horses were rapidly being replaced by motor cars, and the stable was no longer viable.



Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Piegon and their son Joe in uniform and a younger child in 1940.

Ernest and Lucienne lived on their farm until 1959 when they moved to St. Paul. During their years on the farm they managed to raise seven children;
Joseph of Lafond, Alberta — Pascal of Edmonton
Germaine (Ayotte) — deceased
Rita (Robinson) of Edmonton, Alberta
Maria Ange (Chamberland) of St. Paul, Alberta
Yolande (Dubois) of St. Paul, Alberta
Antoinette (Gratton) of St. Paul, Alberta.

Luciene retired to Heritage Homes in St. Paul in 1978 following the death of her husband Ernest in 1973.

MARIE LILIANNE ROSE PAGÉ FAUNCE (1974) DAUGHTER OF PETER PAGÉ AND "MÉMÈRE" PAGÉ.

by Lilliane Faunce

I was born on May 29, 1903 in a small parish town of St. Edwige de Clifton, Quebec. My father worked in a General Store.

When I was four years old, my parents decided to go West to ALBERTA. We travelled by train and arrived at Leduc, Alberta where my mother had a brother, Nazaree Vincent.

Father and Mother worked in hotels and were really tied down so I was put in convents until I was nine years old.

My father applied for a homestead, SE¼ 2-56-12-W4th, near the North Saskatchewan River at a place named Brosseau. He put in some time there and Mother worked in the small hotel in the village. She was a wonderful cook. Sometimes, he would pick up odd jobs painting in the area. After the crops were in, he could make a few bucks while waiting for the grain to grow & ripen. When the crops were ready for harvest he would come back to farm work.

Mother was called "Mémère" Pagé, a term of endearment by most of the settlers here. She took care of babies and would sometimes be absent from home for six weeks at a time. Her home-made bread and cookies also endeared her to many of the youngsters.

"Mémère Pagé" Mrs. Peter Pagé at the time she left Brosseau.

I remember watching soap being made in a big iron kettle outside. Fat was being saved all winter long from whatever butchering the people did — cattle and pork. It was melted down and mixed with lye. When this mixture was put in molds and stored to dry it would get very hard and would last a long time.

Washdays were always miserable days especially in the winter. I hated that day. All the clothes were scrubbed on a washboard. The house was always cold, damp and smelly. In the summer, we would move the tubs outside.

There always was a row of benches for that purpose in a shady spot. In winter my father's long-johns would freeze like a board on the clothes line.

I remember my pet pig. He was squashed when born and had hurt his back. I nursed him and carried him everywhere in my apron. When he was able to walk, he followed me like a dog. I even trained him to ask for the door when he needed to go. I traded him for a sow and spoilt her too. She gave me six little piglets. These I carried in my apron and she followed me. When the babies got big they were sent to market in Vegreville.

Once I got the silly idea that I could help my dad on the freight line. On this trip we had five wagons. It being summer and very hot at noon, we decided to start off at early dusk. When it got dark we were supposed to give a yell now and then so we wouldn't get too far apart. It made me feel very nervous when I called and no one answered. I knew they were far ahead of me and I must keep that load on the straight. Suddenly I saw dad near a campfire — one of his mares had cramps and he was nursing her. He told me to keep on going to Halfway House in Warwick. Dad caught up with me there. After a short rest we got on the road again and reached Vegreville about 1:00 p.m. That evening, we returned to Duvernay. Dad did not want to wake the ferryman to cross the river so we stayed with friends overnight.

Now I'm going to the time we stayed at Gaston Bachelet's place near the river. We moved there in the late summer because my dad and Gaston had decided to cut logs all winter to rebuild the barns which had been destroyed by fire. We decided it was a good time to go pick raspberries. By noon it got so hot and Adrien Ouellette, his sister, Sylvia and I were so thirsty that we drank water from a small spring that was in the pasture. It tasted terrible. Shortly afterwards, I started to feel funny, it felt like I was on a merry-go-round, dizzy and sick to my stomach. Later my eyes turned a yellowish white and I was shaking like a leaf in a breeze. The Indians told my Mom what to do. They brought some deer steaks and told my Mom to give me just the blood. I was sick all winter.

Poor Adrien fell sick too. His grandmother and sister heated some water in a large barrel and got him into it. They kept adding hot water to make him sweat. When they thought he'd had enough, they got him out and wrapped him in Hudson Bay blankets until he lost his fever.

I must tell you about a wedding I attended when I was 13 years old. Mother had made the wedding dress which was of a pale yellow chiffon. People came from miles around and festivities lasted for three days. The main course was "ragout". Dancing went on night and day. The drinks (highballs), kept the men in a half-stupor. I'll always remember it. It was so lively and such good music — three violins and guitars.

One year, one of Joe Brosseau's mares left a beautiful orphan colt so he asked Mother if I would want to raise her. It was a prize colt so my dad bought it for $30. She was really something! When I called her she would come running and I'd give her one of mother's cookies. Sometimes I'd have her walk into the kitchen to get them. When she was three years old I broke her myself and I would not let my dad touch her. I harnessed her and hitched her with Bud, our most steady and well-trained horse. I sure enjoyed my Betsy!

Lillian and her husband Oliver Faunce in 1938.

Lillian and Oliver's three children, Livia, Lionel and Lilia, in 1939.

When I left home, I cried. She followed me all the way to the end of the line and kept calling me back. That was miserable! She seemed to sense that we would never see each other again. We never did.

I made a trip to Montreal to meet some of my relatives and then to New Bedford where I met Oliver Faunce. We were married there. Meanwhile my Dad and Mother had left the farm in Brosseau and bought another in Connecticut.

Lillianne now resides in California.

NICK PLASKA

by Bob Bachelet

Nick Plaska was born in Ordsunie, Ukraine, in 1876. His parents were farmers. In 1898 he married Raifta Olinyk.

Nick and Raifta Plaska in front of the house they built in 1915 with their sons John N. and Steve N. This house is still standing on the homestead.

In 1901 Mr. & Mrs. Plaska came to Canada, sailing from Hamburg, Germany, on May 26. This ship was a freighter which was also loaded with cattle. They landed in Halifax on June 10th and took a train west to Strathcona, Alberta. They stayed in Edmonton until September when they went to homestead at Dickiebush, south of Bellis.

A son, John N. was born on October 10, 1903. Another son, Steve N. was born on March 10, 1905.

Nick stayed at Dickiebush until 1907. He could not acquire a title to this homestead because he had not fulfilled the requirements which stated that land must be broken within a specified time. He moved then to homestead in Brosseau on SE¼ 12-56-12-W4th.

The trip to Brosseau was good until about two miles from their destination. While crossing a creek Nick got stuck. He unhooked his horses and began unloading the wagon while his wife held their one cow and calf. Nick carried his two sons across the creek and, out of willows, made a tent covered with blankets. John and Steve were worried about their mother on the other side of the creek, but, in the morning, when they woke up, mother was there.

The rest of the summer and that winter they stayed in a dugout while Nick built a log house on his homestead. In the winters he worked in mines, and, also on the High Level Bridge in Edmonton.

On May 15, 1915 another son, Mike, was born to Nick and Raifta Plaska. John was married to Mary Logozar on November 3, 1925 and lived with his parents until he moved to his own farm on September, 1926. On February 2, 1928 Steve married Selina Harasym and

Mr. and Mrs. Nick Plaska with sons John and Steve in 1914.

stayed two years with his Dad until he moved to his own place. Mike married Elizabeth Sherstianka in 1938 and lived with his Dad for twelve years, until Nick retired and moved to Two Hills, south of the tracks in 1950. Mike stayed on the farm.

On February 20, 1951 Raifta Plaska passed away and was buried in the Mamaestie Cemetery, Brosseau. Nick died on February 7, 1960 and was buried by his wife.

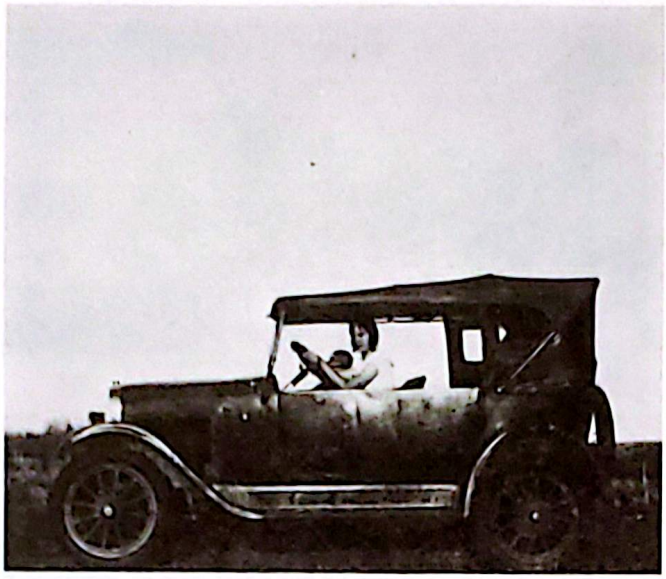
JOHN N. PLASKA

by Bob Bachelet

John N. Plaska was born in Dickiebush, near Bellis, Alberta, on October 10, 1903. He lived with his parents helping them get established on their homestead. On November 3, 1925 he was married to Mary Logozar at Shypenitz by Reverend J. Chrystawka. They continued to live with his parents until John J. Plaska was born on August 15, 1926. By then he had bought NE¼ 1-56-12-W4th from J.B. Holden of Vegreville, Alberta, for a down payment of $40.00 on a total price of $1200.00 — payments started at $50.00 a year. On this farm John built a house and in September, 1926 he moved to start a new life. Four horses was the power used for farming, and an axe and a scythe were the equipment for clearing land.

Between 1921 and 1925 John was also a cowboy, moving cattle for stockbuyers to the railway at Ashmont, Vegreville or Mundare. On one occasion, going to Ashmont across Saddle Lake Reserve, a steer went beserk and had to be shot. The steaks for breakfast were not very good as the steer had been chased too much. The rest of the meat was given to the Indian who had shot him.

John bought his first car, a 1925 Chevrolet Touring, from Steve Yuskow for $300.00. He purchased his first tractor in 1927. It was a Wallis, manufactured by Massey Harris. He also bought a used Sawyer-Massey all-wood separator. He went breaking land for Alphonse Brosseau on NE¼ 26-56-12-W4th at $5.00 per acre. Ten acres was the maximum providing there were not too many rocks or bush. Also during the summer months John went working for Joe and Johnny Brosseau with horses.



John N. Plaska's first car in 1925 — Chev (touring) — Mary Plaska trying it out.

John's Wallis tractor gave him trouble. The babbit bearings would not hold up so he bought a 22-36 McCormick tractor from Steve Yuskow for $1800.00 and a threshing machine (28") for $2800.00 in 1929.

A second son was born to John and Mary on April 23, 1928 at home. This is Fred J. Plaska. On August 18, 1930 another son was born at home, George J. Plaska. Then on october 14, 1935 a daughter, Rosalind (Mrs. Beach) was born, (again at home).

In 1941 John bought a KB5 International 2-ton truck and went trucking. Other trucks followed: in 1943 a KB8 International; in 1945 a KB9 International; in 1954 a 3-ton Special. In 1955 he went trucking for M&B Contractors and in 1956 went on his own. In 1961 he bought a Dodge 3-ton truck and kept on trucking until 1967 when he sold it to his son, George. John thought he would like to retire but went back trucking for M&B Construction for another two years.

Again, in 1970 gave up his trucks and was maintenance man at the Eagle View Nursing Home. He worked there until 1972.

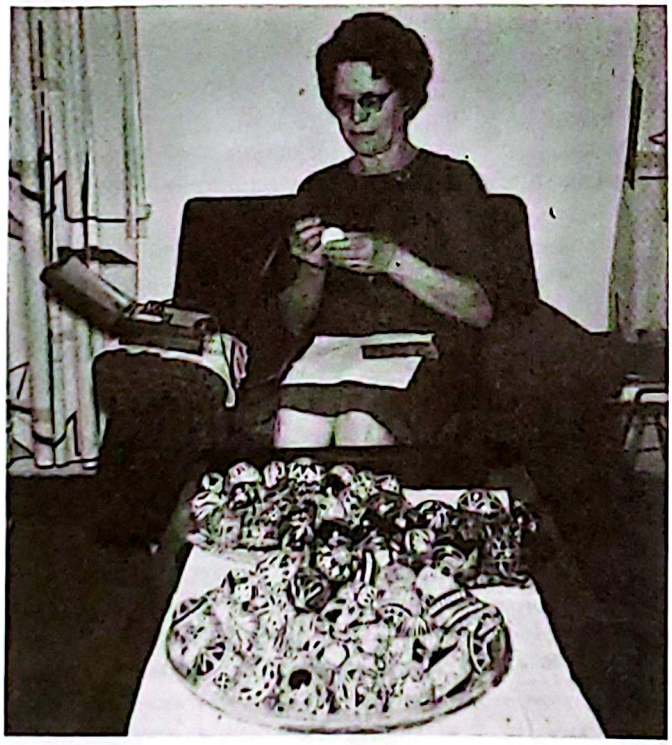
"Old truckers never give up!" In 1979, at 76 years of age, John went back to driving trucks for Bil-Mac Construction. Supposedly this is his last job!

While trucking in Lac La Biche, John went out alone on his last trip one night. He got a flat, and no one to help him. He put the tire on a barrel and tried to push it up onto the truck but, the barrel tipped pinning John underneath it. This hospitalized John for eighteen days with a back injury.

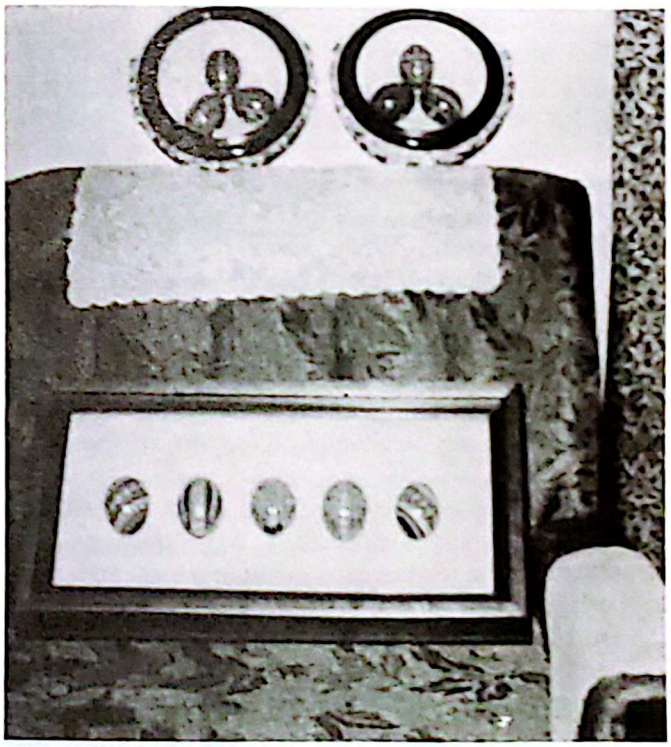
In 1953 to 1955 John worked on construction of the Western Chemicals plant in Duvernay.

In 1953 John's son, George, married Rose Arychuk of Kaleland and took over the farm. John and Mary moved to Two Hills in 1954 and live at 49 Street and 51 Avenue. Now he can find time to go fishing but he likes to help his sons on the farm.

From 1953 to 1969 Mary took in boarders at a price of $65.00 per month for room and board. She was also a seamstress for three years. In 1970 she worked as a cook in the Eagle View Nursing Home, staying there until June 17, 1972, when she retired. Now she has taken up hobbies: needlepoint, crocheting, knitting, quiltmaking and she is an expert on designing Ukrainian Easter eggs which she frames.



Mrs. John N. Plaska painting Easter Eggs, 1973.



Mrs. Mary Plaska's framed Easter Eggs at Two Hills, 1973.

GEORGE J. PLASKA

by Robt Bachelet

George Plaska was born August 18, 1930 at Brosseau, where he is still living (NE¼ 1-56-12-W4th). He attended St. Laurent School, Brosseau from 1936 to 1944. Then he went on to attend school in Two Hills until 1946. While there he played hockey on the school team.

In Brosseau, George drove a 2-wheel cart to school in the summer and a cutter in winter. In December 1943, big-hearted George took the teacher, Miss Carmen Brosseau, to Armand Labby's store with his 2-wheeled cart to order Christmas candies. The pole broke and the horse ran away leaving the teacher, cart and George to fare for themselves. The horse went home, worrying, the parents sent brother Fred to look for George.

In 1946 George decided to go farming with his Dad, John N. Plaska. On June 28, 1953 George was married to Rose Arychuk, in the Vegreville United Church by Rev. G.B. Mather. The reception was at John and Sandra Arychuk's farm in Kaleland. They lived with his father for one year, when Mr. & Mrs. John N. Plaska moved to Two Hills, in 1954.

Rose took all her schooling in Kaleland and Two Hills and graduated in 1952. She clerked in the Two Hills Co-op store until she married George. On May 29, 1958 their son, Grant Brian, was born and on January 29, 1962 their daughter Georgina Sandra Marie was born.

George worked at the Western Chemicals Plant in Duvernay as an ironworker. He became a journeyman in 1955 and went on to work for Dow Chemicals, Edmonton; Peace River Mining; A.I.M. Steel, Edmonton; Lindberg Salt Plant. While working in the plant at Duvernay, one of George's buddies, George Auger, had the misfortune of falling through the roof, thus killing himself.

In 1968 George bought his Dad's gravel truck to supplement his farm income. He still drives it today, but, in 1972 he bought a tandem chev gravel truck, as single axles were going out of style.

On February 14, 1974 he had the misfortune of losing his wife. Rose passed away suddenly in the Two Hills Hospital. She was buried in the Mamestic Greek Orthodox cemetery, Brosseau. This was quite a shock to George and he was just about ready to fold up his farming operations, but, having the children to boost his morale, he decided to stay on the farm. Today he is glad he made this decision.

George kept his home going until December 22, 1975 when he remarried, a widow with three children. Natalie Woloschuk was born April 2, 1938 in the Vegreville Hospital. Her mother passed away on July 19, 1940. In 1945 she went to stay with her brother-in-law Bill Logozar and attended Chesterville School. In September she went to finish grade 9 in Two Hills from Bill and Elsie Kupchenko's home. In 1954 Natalie went home to the farm in Shypenitz with her Dad and brother John. She lived with them until she was married to Mike Verenka on July 19, 1957 in the Shypenitz Greek Orthodox Church by Rev. Krystenovych. They farmed in the district until June 12, 1968 when Mike passed away suddenly and was buried June 16 in the Shypenitz Greek Orthodox cemetery. They have three children: Katherine Marie born December 26, 1958; Joanne born April 1, 1961; Mark Michael born March 3, 1968.

Natalie stayed on her farm until 1975 when she married George Plaska. After their marriage the family doubled, for both to become one big family of three girls and two boys. All the land is farmed jointly from Brosseau. Natalie is busy doing chores and bringing meals to George and the boys when they are doing their farmwork. George still owns his gravel truck.

STEVE J. PLASKA

by Bob Bachelet

Steve Plaska was born March 10, 1905 south of Bellis in the district known as Dickiebush. In 1907 he moved to Brosseau with his parents, Nick and Raifta Plaska, to SE¼ 12-56-12-W4th. They lived in a cave or dugout in a bank on SW 18-56-12-W4th until his Dad built a house on the homestead.

Mr. Steve N. Plaska, Gail, Winnie, Ed and Mrs. Steve N. Plaska in 1973.

22-36 International Tractor used in 1928-1945. Steve N. Plaska and son, Ed repaired the sticking valves to get it going again in the summer of 1971.

Steve N. Plaska's first car, Chev 1930, bought from Eugene Desrosiers in 1934. Selina Plaska is standing by the car and their son, Steve S. is sitting in it.

All his schooling was taken at the St. Laurent School, Brosseau, during the summer months only. The school was closed all of November, December, January and February due to the cold weather and poor roads. Mr. Alphonse Gallant was the teacher.

In 1920 Steve quit school to go to work for Joe Brosseau in the fields with horses. From 1924 to 1928 he worked with his Dad. On February 2, 1928 Steve married Selina Harasym at Mamaestie Church. They lived with his parents until, in 1929, he moved onto his own land, NW¼ 1-56-12-W4th. During his first year on the farm he broke 27 acres with six horses and a 16" breaking plow.

A CATTLE DRIVE

by Steve N. Plaska

In 1923 we rounded up a herd of about 100 head of cattle from Chesterville and drove them to Brosseau for a cattle drive to rail-box-cars in Vegreville. These cattle were prepaid by a buyer, named Mr. Shneider, at each farmer's residence. I was hired along with other riders (brother John and Alec Kabage) to drive them.

We arrived at the Brosseau side of the North Saskatchewan River and proceeded to load them on the ferry in bunches of 15 head per trip. All went well until we had about 70 heads on the Duvernay side. Then one black cow decided to swim back. As she began swimming, she bawled out a distress signal whereupon all the other cattle, already across, stampeded and also began swimming back. The herd ended up downstream from the ferry near Joe Brosseau's residence, because the current carried them there.

In 1932 Steve bought his first tractor in partnership with his brother John, and most of their equipment was jointly owned. Until 1940 he was threshing with his Dad's machine but, in that year he bought his own 28" McCormick-Deering Separator.

Ferry crossing in 1938 with a load of horses belonging to Brosseau's. Basil Theroux was the operator.

In 1935 he was plowing with a 15-30 McCormick tractor which had no lights. To be able to see the furrows at night he tied a coal-oil lantern by the radiator. While refueling at midnight with his son, Steve S. who was six years, the tractor and barrel of gas caught fire from the lantern. The fire was so hot that the spokes on one steel wheel collapsed.

On October 9, 1945 a second son, Edward, was born to Steve and Selina Plaska, in the Vegreville Hospital.

In July 1947 with his neighbor, John Oberkisch, Steve was painting his high hip-roof barn, when a new block-and-tackel he had just bought to hold the scaffold, let go. John Oberkisch was knocked unconscious and covered with black paint, but uninjured. Steve was not so furtunate. He broke his leg between the knee and ankle and his ankle mushroomed with the force of the fall. Dr. Winnitoy, Miss Dow (Mrs. George English) and Nick Fedoruk reset his leg without anaesthetic. In 1948 Steve had to go to Edmonton to have his ankle rebroken and reset with two steel bolts which he still has.

That fall, 1948, Steve had more bad luck while threshing for Peter Sherstianka. He was still sporting his cast. He climbed on the side of the hopper and had the misfortune of tipping over with it, knocking himself out. There were no apparent injuries but more aches and pains.

In 1947 Steve pruchased his first rubber-tired McCormick-Deering tractor — a W6 gas model.

During the period from 1950 to 1959 Steve was on the Mamaestie Greek Orthodox church board, three years as chairman. During this time they moved the church 25 feet south to its present position.

In July 1974 Steve and Selima Plaska moved to Two Hills, Diefenbaker Ave. and 46 Street, to enjoy retirement. Now Steve, who has always enjoyed Fishing but had not much time for it, can visit the many lakes in this part of Alberta, looking for the "big one". He still finds time to help his two boys on the farm.

WILLIAM HARASYM

by Bill Harasym

My parents, Peter and Katie Harasym, came from Toperiwchi, province of Bukowina, Austria, near the capital city of Chernavatz. (The name Bukowina is derived from the word meaning Hickory Wood which was plentiful in the area and used to make handles for hammers, etc.)

William Harasym and family, 1979. Seated L. to R. - Olga Gaidzik, Mary Antoniuk, William Harasym, Lil Myroniuk. Standing - Cluse Glacier, Orest Antoniuk, Reid and his girl-friend.

Living conditions at this time in Austria were difficult, so Peter and Katie decided to go to Canada. They left in 1904 with a 2-year-old son, Peter, the grandmother, Dora, the stepfather, John Ponich, and a nephew, Steve Skrepnik. They embarked on a ship in Hamburg, Germany, bound for Halifax, a voyage which lasted 11 days. Everyone was sick, especially the son Peter. They were met in Edmonton, N.W.T., by Ron Mandryk who brought them to the homestead near South Bend (now called Duvernay). They settled on NE 20-55-11 W4.

To start with my father had bought a team of mares from a German man, Mr. Greps, in Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta, and named Nellie and Chappie. He made 12 trips to Edmonton with them in 1904 and 1905, a distace of 110 miles. There were no roads at the time, only Indian trails.

At that time there were only three homesteaders in our district who had horses — my father (Peter Harasym), Nick Orlecki and Ron Mandryk. They would freight from Edmonton, bringing flour, salt and other goods for the settlers.

I was born October 22, 1904 at my grandmother's house on NW 16-55-11 W4, in a sod house, on the side of a hill, because there was no house on our farm yet.

Our first house built on the farm had a straw roof. In the spring of 1909, it was being remodelled. The carpenter dropped a cigarette in the straw that was scattered around the building and it began to burn. A large group of Indian hunters were camped on the neighboring quarter. When they noticed the fire they rushed to help. Carrying the snow in their hands, they tried to extinguish the fire. Nothing was left but the roof and the walls.

In 1910, my father bought the half section across the road from our homestead, W½ 21-55-11-W4. It was called "scrap land" because it was unproductive and had been abandoned by previous homesteaders. Here he built another house and some farm buildings. (In 1931 this same house unoccupied, was burned right to the ground.)

Our church, Luzan Toperiwchi, and the Luzan School, were built at about the same time. They were started in 1911 and finished in 1912. Mr. Elzear Moisin and Mr. Arthur Roberge were the builders. The interior was artistically finished by Mr. Gozowati, a cabinet maker.

In 1913 the school opened its doors for the first time. It was late opening because it was difficult to find qualified teachers or even one with a permit to teach. Then it would stay open for only six months a year. It would be closed during the winter months because the parents could not afford to buy warmer clothes for the children who had to walk to school. There were no snowplows to open the roads. There were only trails for the children to follow. Besides, the people of the district could not afford to pay a teacher for the whole year.

I attended Luzan School from 1913 to 1917, finishing in Grade 4. I worked on farms until 1927 when I met Martha Kalynchuk at Angle Lake, 10 miles north of Derwent. She was the daughter of Kost and Annie (nee Kurash) Kalynchuk, born in 1912. We were married February 12, 1928 at the North Slawa Church at Angle Lake.

We had three daughters: Lil married Fred Myroniuk of Edmonton; Mary married Orest Antoniuk and lives in Lloydminster, Alberta, and Olga who is married to Ollie Gaidzik and lives in Edmonton.

On June 15, 1946 I remarried. This time my bride was a widow, Mary (Lastiwka) Lakusta. She died January 12, 1967.

There were ten children in our family, five girls and five boys, of which only six are alive.

My step-grandfather, John Ponich, died June 1925; my grandmother, Dora Ponich, died July 1910; my

William Harasym's birthday party at Eagle Hill Lodge, Willingdon, 1979. Seated R. to L. - Lil Myroniuk, William Harasym, Mary Orlecki, Reid and his girl-friend. Standing L. to R. - Orest Antoniuk, Ann Harasym, Lucy Lastiwka, Rose Rosychuk, Greg Harasym, Selina Plaska, Metro Rosychuk, Steve Plaska, Rosie Chapple and Robbin Logozar.

father, Peter Harasym, died June 1927; my mother, Katie Harasym, died January 1942; brother, Peter Harasym, died may 1975; brother, Mike, died December 1974; brother, died; sister, Dora, died March 1944.

I still have, living in Edmonton, one brother, Greg; sister Mary who married Bill Orlecki; and Lucy married to Bill Lastiwka. Selina married to Steve N. Plaska and Rose who married Metro Rosychuk, live in Two Hills.

Throughout the years I have moved eleven times and am contemplating the twelfth.

On July 1, 1969, I retired from active working force in Elk Point, Alberta. In April, 1975, I moved to the Smoky Lake Senior Citizens' Lodge; then to the Myrnam Eagle View Lodge, May 29, 1975. Lastly I went to the Eagle Hill Lodge in Willingdon, Alberta, on February 8, 1978. I am still residing there, but, being able to drive my car, I can visit wherever and whenever I wish.

Brosseau Braves Baseball Team 1951. l to r — Geroge Pundick, Steve Plaska, Milton Boychuk, Burt Boychuk, Metro Chrapko, Benny Elkow, Jack Archinuk, Bob Bachelet, Mike Marcichiw, after taking 1st prize at the Brosseau 8-team tournament.

STEVE S. PLASKA

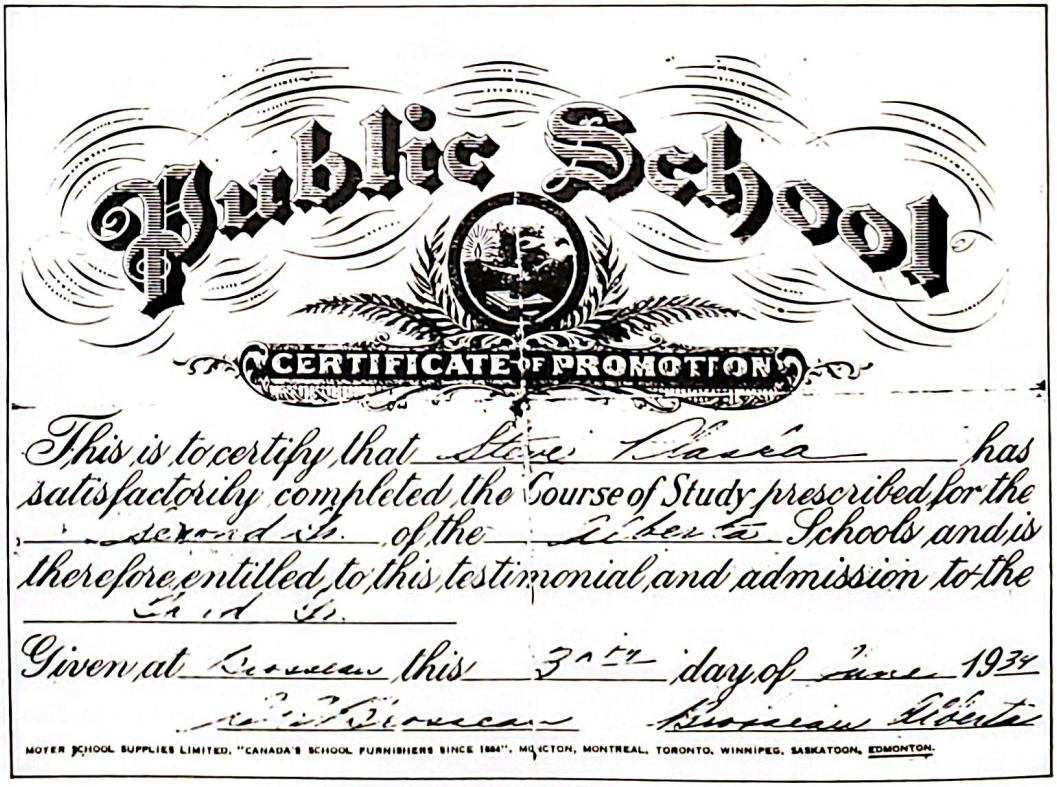
by Robert Bachelet

Steve S. Plaska was born October 13, 1929 in Edmonton. He attended St. Laurent School, Brosseau from April 1937 to June 30, 1944 and was taught by Miss Carmen C. Brosseau and Miss F.J. Brosseau (Mrs. Norman Mailloux). From 1944 to 1954 Steve farmed with his father, Steve N. Plaska.

Steve was an ardent ball player (pitcher) and played with the Brosseau Bluebirds who later changed their name to Brosseau Braves. St. Paul had an annual baseball tournament and Steve played in seven of them — 2 with the Brosseau Braves and 5 with the Two Hills Eagles.

Rose Pundick, daughter of Metro and Pearl Pundick of Foisy, was born August 3, 1936, at the parental farmstead. Her first 3 years of school were spent at Mamaestie School with Miss Sophie Slevinsky as teacher. She took grades 4 & 5 at Big Fish Lake School when Mrs. Alice Melnyk was the teacher. At 12 years of age Rose's mother moved to Two Hills and Rose continued her schooling there to Grade 10. After finishing school Rose worked at the Two Hills Co-Op store for one year, then back to the farm to help her mother. During these years Rose was an ardent fan of the Brosseau Braves baseball club. This dedication to the club paid off, for Rose, in 1954, married their star player.

Steve and Rose were married July 16, 1954 in Myrnam, Alberta. The wedding reception was held in the Foisy hall.



Public School

CERTIFICATE OF PROMOTION

This is to certify that Steve Plaska has satisfactorily completed the Course of Study prescribed for the Second Yr. of the Alberta Schools and is therefore entitled to this testimonial and admission to the Third Yr.

Given at Brosseau this 3rd day of June 1939

E. E. Brosseau Brosseau Alberta

MOYER SCHOOL SUPPLIES LIMITED, "CANADA'S SCHOOL FURNISHERS SINCE 1884". MONCTON, MONTREAL, TORONTO, WINNIPEG, SASKATOON, EDMONTON.

The Certificate of Promotion issued to Steve S. Plaska in 1939. His marks were:

Health 80
Social Studies 85
Spelling 99
Art 89
Literature 85
Language 71
Arithmetic 95
Elementary Science 85
Oral Reading 85
Music 52
Writing 85
Sp. Training 66

In 1956 Steve S. Plaska opening his road with the municipal-owned snowplow. At that time the grader went only on the main roads, but every farmer was entitled to use the municipal plow, when it was available, to open their own roads. This scene was taken by Steve N. Plaska near his home.

For two years Steve and Rose lived with his parents while he built himself a new house on SE 2-56-12-W4th. They moved into it on January 17, 1957. He needed lumber to build a barn and chicken coop, so, in February 1957, he and his father went to Matichuk's Sawmills at Wolf River to get it. On the way home, through 22 miles of bush roads, the truck broke down. Steve walked 14 miles, in 30 below weather, to Willow Trail for help. Next day, a Matichuk truck driver unloaded the lumber off the broken truck onto his own truck. Father, Steve N. Plaska, cut a big tree to put under the housing (as the wheel had fallen off) to use as a skid, and tied the broken truck so close to the Matichuk truck that exhaust fumes fogged the windshield. Steve Jr. rode 14 miles on the running board, steering through the window, and, when going down hills he would drive the truck in the snow on the side of the road, to act as a brake. When they reached their destination a place to repair the truck, Steve could not bend his knees. He had to throw himself into a snowbank to get off that running board.

On July 25, 1962, their only child was born in the Two Hills Hospital. Rick is still attending school in Two Hills.

Steve and Rose have been very active in community affairs:

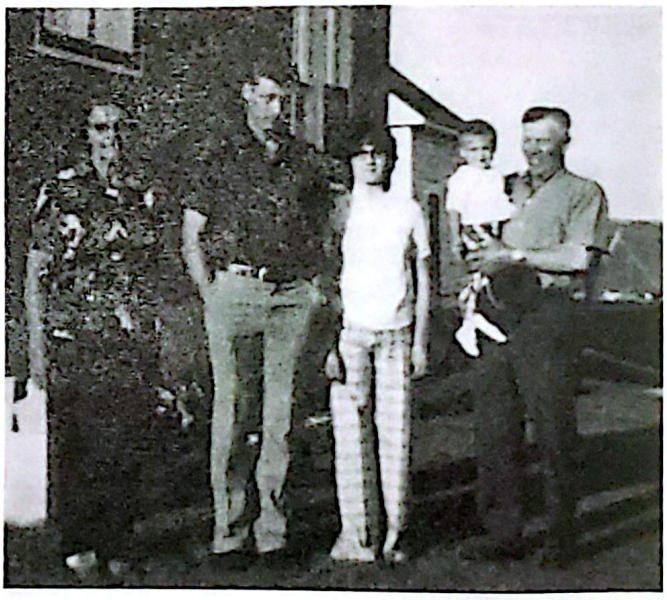
Steve also rode horses. This picture was taken at the year end shcool picnic put on by Miss Carmen Brosseau, at the Oberkisch Lake (Brosseau Lake) on June 30, 1943. l to r — Jules Olivier Bachelet, Roger Ouellette, Jean-Marie Ouellette, Fred Plaska, and Steve S. Plaska.

1 — In 1958 Steve became a director of the Champlain Rural Electrification Association, a position he sitll holds.
2 — In 1969 Steve became a director on the Rannach Community Pature Board and still holds that position.
3 — In 1974 he became secretary-treasurer of the Mamaestie Holy Trinity Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church and still holds that position.
4 — From 1972 to 1977 Steve and Rose were active members of the Brosseau 4-H Beef Club.
5 — Rose has been a director and secretary of the Ukrainian Women's Association of Mamaestie church for the last 20 years.

EDWARD E. PLASKA

by Bob Bachelet

Edward was born October 9, 1945 in Vegreville, Alberta. He took his schooling in Two-Hills. In 1961 was a member of the Brosseau 4-H Beef Club. After completing two years of petroleum technology at N.A.I.T. in 1967, he went to work for British American Oil Co., now Gulf Oil Canada, at the head office in Calgary as a technician. In 1968 met Winnie Saunders who hailed from Hare Bay, Newfoundland. On Aug. 16,



Mr. Steve N. Plaska, Mrs. Steve N. Plaska, Ed, Gail and Glen in Rocky Mountain, Alta. in 1978.

1969 Ed and Winnie were married at the United Church in Two-Hills, with the reception in Two-Hills Centennial Hall. Ed and Winnie resided in Calgary until 1970 at which time Ed was transferred to Rocky Mountain House. (Strachen gas plant) In 1971 Ed and Winnie flew to Gander, Newfoundland for Ed's first visit with Winnies family at the East Coast. Ed went fishing with his father-in-law and landed a 10 lb. cod fish. Their first child

Ed Plaska at Newfoundland in the summer of 1971 with a ten pound Cod.

Gail Lynn was born Jan. 13, 1972 at the Red Deer General Hospital. In the spring of 1974 Ed and Winnie moved into the Brosseau area where they began farming on Ed's parents homestead. October 29, 1974 Ed and Winnies second child, Glen Stanley, was born at the Two Hills Hospital.

Ed is presently employed at the Two Hills Chemicals plant in Duvernay.

MIKE PLASKA

by Mike Plaska

Mike's birth date is controversial, but he has claimed May 15, 1915 (thereby being one year younger than he should be). He is the son of Nick Plaska and Rafita Olinek, and was born on the homestead in Brosseau — SE¼ 12-56-12 W4. He attended the St. Laurent School from 1923-1930 and remembers Mr. Surette and Miss Simone Brosseau who were teaching at that time. When he was promoted to Grade 9, Miss Brosseau proposed to put him through school in Lafond but his father refused to allow it. "There are bundles to pitch" was the excuse, and Mike had to forget his ambition to become either a lawyer or a pilot.

Elizabeth and Mike Plaska with their daughter, Julie.

Elizabeth Sherstianko, daughter of Peter Sherstianko and Domka Savaryn was born December 25, 1917 at Lac Bellevue. Because there was no school there, Elizabeth did not begin school until she moved with her parents to Brosseau in 1927. There she attended Mamaestie School finishing in grade 7 in 1933. Afterwards, she stayed home to help her mother look after 8 younger children. Mike came a courting and, on November 7, 1937, they were married.

After moving to Brosseau — (L. to R.)
Back Row — Peter, Anne, Metro, Elizabeth Janie (died at 2 years 10 months old), Mother Domka. Sherstianko.
Front Row — Maria and George.

Mike and Elizabeth lived in his father's house for 9 years. They had the living-room while Nick had the kitchen. Mike bought SW¼ 7-56-11 W4 and rented his father's homestead. He also purchased an IHC truck to haul grain to Two Hills and cattle to Edmonton, for the farmers of the area.

Julie Plaska and Temmo Jacobs on their wedding day.

Back Row (L. to R.) — Peter Sherstianko, Domka, Lily, Anne and Maria.
Front Row — John, Janie and Sam in 1938.

In 1946 Mr. & Mrs. Nick Plaska retired in Two Hills and Mike bought the homestead. Now, Mike and Elizabeth had the whole house to themselves, and, they never moved out of it until 1964 when they auctioned off their livestock and machinery etc. on October 30.

On October 31st they moved their household furnishings with the "Hallowe'eners" to Edmonton. Their first task there, was to rush to the little shopping-center near their house for treats to be dispensed to their "spooky" callers that evening.

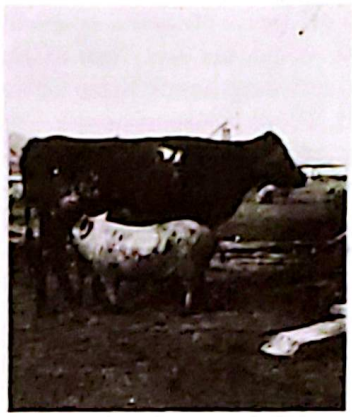
Mike and Elizabeth have been living in the same house in Edmonton since moving in. Mike is still driving trucks. Elizabeth babysits her two grandsons, Trent (6 years old) and Greg (4½). They are the children of their only child, Julie, born January 19, 1946 and married to a Dutchman, Temmo Jacobs.

Mrs. (Rafita) Nick Plaska with her sons John, Steve and Mike.

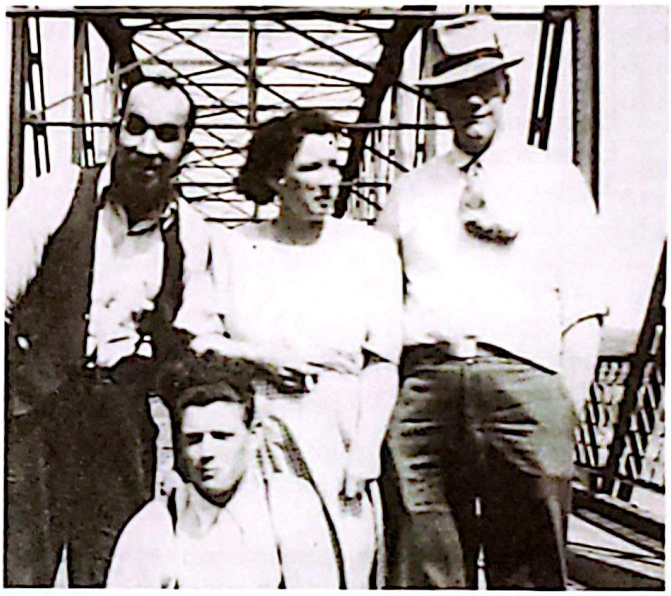
ANDY PETERSON

by Bernice Didier

Andy Peterson was born in Ironjiim, Norway, Aug. 12, 1889 and came to Canada in 1907. After working in various lumber camps, he came to Vilna, Alberta. In 1916 he married Eleanor Whelen. Eleanor's parents,



Strange custom on Peterson's farm near Vilna.



Mr. and Mrs. Andy Peterson, Onufry Chrapko and Richard Peterson, on the bridge in Duvernay 1939.

Richard and Sara, came from Powossan, Ont. and homesteaded in the Vilna district. Andy & Eleanor took out a homestead near by, and remained there until they purchased the Duvernay Hotel in the spring of 1939. They sold the Hotel to Mr. & Mrs. Burke in the fall of 1941 and returned to farming. Although they had left the district, they returned regularly to visit their daughter Bernice (Bunny) and her husband Ernest Didier and their many friends.

They had 4 other children:
Maise — (Mrs. K. Amdam of Barrhead) — 1 child
Lettie — (Mrs. B. Trent) — children
Richard of Stony Plain — children
Bill in Edmonton — children
Eleanor passed away May 25, 1945 and Andy on March 12, 1947.

THE PARE FAMILY

by Suzanne Coutu

Henri Pare was born in the province of Quebec on July 13th, 1868. He married Julie Lapierre on July 13th, 1886. Julie was also born in Quebec in 1870. In 1926 they came to Brosseau and rented the south half of section 22-56-12-W4th from Francois Courtemanche. They farmed there till 1935.

When he was 67 years of age he bought a house in the Hamlet of Brosseau and retired. He was close to the store and church and they were very happy there till he lost his wife on March 10th, 1940. He lived here a few years by himself. In 1942 he sold his house and moved to Lac La Biche to live with his son Ernest. Mr. Pare passed away in February 1961. Mr. and Mrs. Pare had a family of twelve children, eight sons and four daughters. Olivine, Ovide and Philias died at early age before they came out west.

Alma married Napoleon Beauregaurd.
Armand married Florida Theroux.
Edmond married Rose Carson.
Annette married Eugene Desrosier.
Lucien married Marie Ann Dragon.
David married Mrs. Elizabeth Theroux.
Emma married Willie Armour.
Ernest married Marie Dragon.
Joseph married Yvonne Theroux.

THE PULKRABEK FAMILY

by Raymond T. Pulkrabek

The Pulkrabek family dates back to 1750 to its first ancestor, Valkav Pulkrabek of Horni Ujezd, Cis 100, Czechoslovakia.

Members of the third generation came to Wisconsin, U.S.A. in the years between 1856 and 1866.

The fourth generation, Joseph E. Pulkrabek, was born September 15, 1857, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He was married to Josie Pesina (born January 8, 1864) in 1884 in McLeod County, Minnesota, U.S.A. He came to Canada where, in 1906, he took a homestead NW¼ 6-57-11 W4.

Joseph Pulkrabek's son, Theodore, was born May 8, 1884. After several moves in Wisconsin and Montana, he crossed the border into Canada. He had married Anna Pesina (born May 15, 1885) at Silver Lake, Minnesota (near St. Paul-Minneapolis). He came to take a homestead NW¼ 16-55-12-W4 and his father joined him to ranch Section 16-55-12 W4. They went into cattle and horse business, raising, buying, selling and trading. A good team was worth a lot of money in those days.

In 1914 the Pulkrabek's moved to St. Paul where Joseph operated a store (where the St. Paul Foundry is presently located). Eventually, in 1927, Joseph moved back to the States where he died June 28, 1928. Josie had passed away March 23, 1925.

After a brief interval in Salvador, Saskatchewan, Theodore Pulkrabek moved to St. Paul in 1914. The area was a Cree Reserve until 1909, then the Quebec French moved in. It was a French settlement until 1920 when the railroad came in and other nationalities moved in. At that time the Pulkrabeks were among the very few families who were not French.

Theodore had two sons: Raymond and Lyman. Mrs. Pulkrabek died in St. Paul, September 1, 1942. Later, Theodore was in Blunt's Nursing Home, in St. Paul, where he died April 28, 1968.

Raymond Pulkrabek

by Raymond Pulkrabek

Raymond Pulkrabek (also known as Pokey) was born in Salvador, Saskatchewan, August 9, 1911. He was educated in St. Paul, Alberta. He worked for the Beaver Lumber Company there until he enlisted in the army in 1939. He married Marjorie Draker of Miami, Florida on November 20, 1938.

On September 19, 1939 Ray enlisted in St. Paul and joined the 49th Battalion later known as the Loyal Edmonton Regiment. After the usual training he went overseas, spending Christmas on the ship and New Year's Day on a train to Aldershot, England. He was sent to the Mediterranean Front and took part in the landings in Sicily and in Italy. At Ortona he was wounded and was invalided in a hospital ship, back to England and then to Canada for Christmas 1944. After his home leave he was discharged on January 1945, in Calgary.

For three years after the war, Ray worked for the government, selling surplus building materials from the demolition of Army barracks, etc. When they shut down he returned to St. Paul in 1948. He was a painting contractor for many years and part of the St. Paul Fire Brigade for 30 years (1948 - 1978).

Ray and his wife, Marge, still live in St. Paul at "Pokey's Pair-a-Dice" where he keeps busy. Marjorie has also retired from her career in the restaurant business. She claims that she works harder, now, for nothing, than when she was working for wages. They have three children:

Terrance Raymond —
born September 10, 1945. He married Sylvia Anne Prenovost (born December 7, 1967) and lives in Whitehorse, Yukon. He has changed his name to DeRae.

John Theodore —
born June 21, 1950. He married Darlene Kelenchuk. Works for Smith's Ambulance in Edmonton.

Janet JoAnne —
born February 8, 1952. She married Richard Joseph Robinson August 21, 1970 and lives in St. Paul, Alberta.

MIKE AND LUCY PUNDICK

by Lucy Pundick

Mike Pundick was born November 19, 1911 on the original Brosseau homestead his father bought in 1906 for $10.00 (S.W. Sec. 4, R. 11, Twp. 56 west of 4). His parents, Steve and Mary (Taschuk) Pundick, had come to Canada with their three oldest children in 1903. (Steve was born in 1863 in Austria and Mary in 1897).

Mary and Steve Pundick (1907)

On the recommendation of Mary's brother, Bill Taschuk, who had come to Canada a year earlier, they came with Mary's parents seeking better living conditions. They travelled by ship and then by train to Edmonton where they were met by Mary's brother, Bill, and taken to Bellis where he had settled. Their first few years were spent there. Steve walked from there to Edmonton to find work. He got a job shaping rails (mizu), used to build railways.

After living in Bellis for three years, Steve set out with his brother-in-law, Mafty Sherstan, to find better land. They walked south-east, through land which was called a reserve, owned already by the Indians, and still farther (about forty miles in all). Five miles from a little hamlet called Brosseau, he picked out his homestead.

At that point Steve and Mary had three children; John, Metro and Irene, all born in the old country. After getting established on their homestead they had four more; Ruth, Nick, Mike and Annie. (See Family Tree)

Although Mike wasn't around to remember the family's first years on the farm, his oldest sister, Irene remembers some of their early years.

Their first home (called a Oypgai) was built by digging a hole in the ground, covering it with sticks, piling hay on the sticks and finally covering all this with sod. After the family moved here from Bellis, Steve once again went to work in Edmonton to make enough money to get the farm started.

Irene remembers helping to brush and plow with two oxen and a one furrow, walking plow. They cut their first crop with a sicle and thrashed it with flails. Whatever grain was harvested was washed and dried and Irene ground it for flour. Some was used to make bread which was baked in a big outdoor clay oven. In addition to grinding wheat, Irene had the job of bringing the calves to their mothers to nurse three times a day. Because of the danger of bears the calves weren't turned out to pasture with their mothers on the riverbanks.

The children did whatever they could to supplement the family's income. During the summer they were able to pick saskatoons and cranberries down the river banks for their mother to make into jam. Irene also remembers digging seneca root to sell to Alphonse Brosseau at Brosseau Store for 25¢a lb. Irene and her grandmother also sold butter and eggs to the store.

After three years of working in Edmonton, Steve had enough money to build a new house. This time it was made of logs, had a rye thatched roof and was mud plastered inside and out, then white washed. This new house boasted of three little windows with glass panes.

Three years after Mike was born (1914), the school was built at Mamaestie. Being the oldest and already fourteen, Irene walked to school barefooted even though she wasn't allowed to go to school very often as she was needed to help at home and her mother didn't think school was important for girls. Over a period of three months, she attended for three days. The older boys, Metro and John, also had to go out to work but this enabled them to learn not only English but French. Mike being the youngest boy, was able to attend school until he was fifteen.

The early years were hard and a bad crop meant that Steve had to look elsewhere for income and leave his wife and family to look after the farm. Some of the time he spent working in a bakery in Edmonton.

A frost ruined most of the crop in 1918. Tragedy struck again in 1919, this time a drought. Mother Pundick tried to save as much of the crop as she could so cut the wheat with her hands and a sickle and stooked it. Then the rains came and it all rotted — no crop at all. For several years the family ate mostly vegetables and potatoes and made their own cheese and if they were lucky enough to get a deer or two in the fall and prairie chickens that supplied fresh meat. Whatever ailments and illnesses were contracted by the family, most had to be treated mainly with materials they had on hand. The

Mary and Steve's Pundick's home and neighbors in 1917.

Mike and Lucy Pundick.

most popular cure-all was baking soda. They also had a general painkiller which could be mixed with water and drunk or rubbed on as a linament. Sulphur too, was a popular cold treatment.

In 1914, Steve and Mary were able to build a new house. This time the log structure had lumber siding on the outside, shingles on the roof and was completely plastered inside. This same house is the one Mike's children would grow up in thirty years later.

When Mike finished school at fifteen, he stayed home to work with his father on the farm. In 1934 he met (in Church of all places!) and married Lucy Harbarenko of Cold Lake.

Lucy was born November 7, 1914 in Rife, Alberta. The midwife was Mrs. Olga Doonianco. Lucy was the oldest in a family of thirteen children, the daughter of Paul Harbarenko and Katrina Fedoruk. She was raised in the Cold Lake area with her eight brothers and four sisters where her father was involved in farming, ranching, trapping as well as doing commercial fishing.

Until the first school was built at Beaver Crossing, Lucy and her brother Harry went to school in Edmonton. For three years they attended Queen Alexandra School and boarded there in a boys and girls boarding home run by Dr. Duclos. Their father drove them by wagon as far as St. Paul in the fall and they went the rest of the way by train. He picked them up again in St. Paul in the spring.

Many of Lucy's brothers and sisters are still living in the Cold Lake-Grand Centre area and some are even still farming and fishing as their father did.

Mike and Lucy were married August 12, 1934 in Mamaestie Church (recorded as Holy Trinity Church, Brosseau) — the same church where they met, and settled into life on the farm with Mike's parents. For the first year, they lived in a tiny house originally intended as a chicken coop!

In 1934, Mike and Lucy took over the farm from Mike's parents. After that, his parents spent some of their time on the farm, some at their house in Two Hills and some visiting other sons and daughters. After husband Steve's death on April 24, 1948, Mother Mary Pundick spent most of her remaining years on the farm with Mike and Lucy. She died on October 10, 1959.

It wasn't long after they took over the farm before children started to arrive. They are as follows:

VIVIAN EVELYN — born in Cold Lake Hospital on October 19, 1936. She died on February 2, 1937.

JUNE KATHERINE — June was born at home on June 2, 1938. The midwife attending the birth was Rozena Fedoruk R.N. June attended Mamaestie School for two years before it closed, then continued her schooling in Two Hills. She left school to work for Mr. Geleta and Palmaruks. On November 4, 1961 she married Marshall Kachmar of Musidora. They farmed with Marshall's parents (Mike and Olga) until Marshall went into oilfield work with Amoco in Swan Hills. Except for a short stay in Ft. McMurray, they have been there since 1971. They have three girls and a boy.

EVA LUCILLE — Eva was born in St. Theresa Hospital in St. Paul on February 15, 1940. She attended Mamaestie School for one year and from there went to Two Hills. When she was in Grade Ten (1956) she was crowned Queen in the first Student's Union Carnival. In 1957 she married Nick Ewashko of Musidora. They had one boy and four girls. Eva is presently living in Edmonton.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Habarenko's family.

JULIA MARIA — When Julia was born on June 20, 1941, Mrs. Mary Rosychuk of Foisy was the midwife. She took all her schooling in Two Hills. After graduation, Julia worked in Two Hills as a dental assistant for Dr. Lukenchuk. In 1965 (June 5), she married Walter Krywiak of Myrnam. Presently Julia is working as a mortgage insurance underwriter in Edmonton.

NATALIA ROSE — Once again Mrs. Mary Rosychuk assisted for the birth on September 22, 1942 at home. Natalia took all her schooling in Two Hills. During her teens she was very active in the Shuma (Ukrainian Youth Club) at Mamaestie. She is working for the Toronto Dominion Bank in Edmonton where she lives with her husband "Jamie" Jamieson and daughter Laurie May.

Back row L. to R. Walter and David Pundick. Center Lucy and Mike. Seated Eva Ewashko, Natalie Jamieson and June Kachmar. Missing Julia Krywiak. August 5, 1978.

DAVID MIKE — When David was born, June 8, 1944, Dr. Lazaruk, Mrs. Pete (Martha) Taschuk and Mrs. Metro Sherstan assisted. David took all his schooling in Two Hills but was active in 4-H and the Shuma at Mamaestie. On September 4, 1965, he married Gloria Ternovoy of Foisy and for fifteen years worked for the CN in Edmonton. David and Gloria are now living at Foisy with their two children. Dave is the Service Manager for International Harvester in St. Paul.

WALTER DENNIS — Walter was born on December 12, 1950 in the Two Hills Hospital; Dr. Chonko assisted. He went to school in Two Hills and after graduating went into the sheet metal trade at NAIT. In 1977 he moved back to the farm and began working as a tinsmith in St. Paul. On August 18, 1978 he married Elizabeth Mills of Edson. They are presently living in St. Paul.

Mike was involved in several activities through the years to supplement his farming income. One such enterprise was cutting wood with a wood splitter and a sawing machine. Usually he hired men to help but the older girls can remember lending a hand.

In 1956 he started work at the Chemcell plant at Duvernay. He worked there until April of 1973.

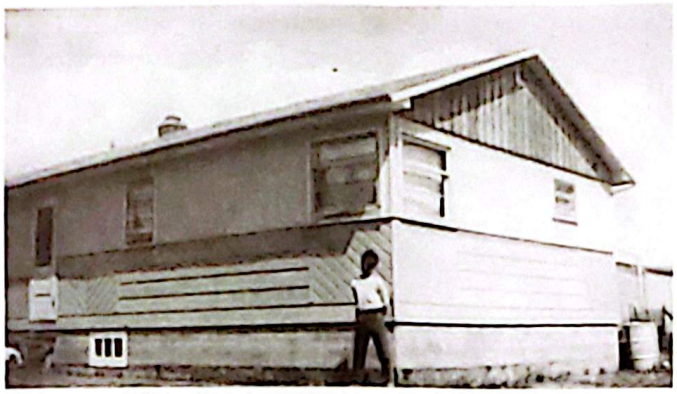
Although Mike has retired from farming and has handed his farm over to his youngest son, Walter (in 1976), he stills keeps busy doing carpentry. Many in the area know him for his meticulous work. When he isn't carpentering he's out in the fresh air, hunting or fishing.

On one occasion his fishing fever caused him to leave the five oldest children (still small) to do some berry picking on the river banks while he went to fish. A short while later he thought he could hear screaming so went up to investigate. All he found where he'd left the children were abandoned pails. A further search revealed that they weren't at the car either. Finally he found them on the road going home to mom. They'd stumbled on a bees nest and had just dropped everything and ran as fast as their little legs could carry them.

Perhaps the one thing Mike is best remembered for (at least by his family) is his interest in vehicles. When Mike and Lucy got married their only transportation was a horse and wagon but things soon changed. With their first tractor, Mike made a box on the back for the family and away they went.

Mike was one of the first in the area to have a vehicle capable of hauling; a 1940 Dodge Fargo truck. He was

Back row: Jamie & Nat. Jamieson, June and Marshall Kachmar, Gloria and David Pundick, Eva Ewasko, Mike & Lucy Pundick, Wally Pundick, Saidee Cumming, Elizabeth Mills, Marguerite and Bill Mills, John Mills. Front row: Rick Ewasko, Darlene Kachmar, Denise Kachmar, Micheal Kachmar, Susan Ewasko, Clinton Pundick, Glenna Ewasko (back), Laurie Jamieson, and Sheri Pundick (front).



Mike Pundick's new home on the farm. Built in 1956.

able to capitalize on this somewhat and used it to haul grain, flour and pigs for people. A trip to Cold Lake and back was $10.

Since then, Mike's various vehicles have caused both their share of pleasure and consternation. Availability of a vehicle certainly provided for a great number of family outings. On one occasion however, Lucy remembers the vehicle not being too co-operative: "We were going to church. The girls (June, Eva, Julia) were all dressed in new, red felt hats and looked very pretty. We all got in the car and started out. We got as far as the gate when the car decided to stop and refused to go any further. Mike tried everything and finally got so mad that he kicked it. That did it, the old thing got going and away we went".

With all Mike's experience with vehicles, he couldn't resist trying out Walter's brand new, red (Honda) motorcycle when he brought it home. Wasn't he surprised when it bucked him off?!

Lucy, of course, kept things going on the farm when Mike was out working as well as involving herself in community and church activities.

Apart from her community activities, Lucy was kept busy at home, raising her children and acting on occasion as a right-hand man for Mike. Although she never learned to drive, harvest time often found her on a wagon behind a horse or riding a tractor. Lucy remembers one instance where she not only had to help but they had to improvise a little as well: "Mike had a combine but didn't have anyone to haul in the grain or any vehicle to haul grain with. He got an idea — we had a big wagon box on a wagon, the kind used to haul grain to the elevator, but it usually took a team of strong horses to haul it and we had only one horse, a mare. So, he decided to make a one horse shaft for the grain box and yes, you guessed it, wife Lucy to haul the grain from the combine to the granary". Mike found that Lucy was so good at it that he gave her the job for at least two more harvests.

On another occasion, the same horse, that Lucy had used to haul grain, Topsy, was responsible for a little more drama. Lucy had gone out to look for the horse and a cow, taking her youngest son, Walter (who was about 3½) with her. She caught sight of something moving along the fence but to her horror realized it was neither the horse nor the cow but a bear! She maintains that she intended to remain calm but to this day doesn't know when she picked up Walter and started to run, but run she did, all the way to Mike who was working in the field. He told her to run back to the house and get a gun but neglected to tell her which kind. First she brought a .22, then a shotgun. By the time she got the right one, the bear was long gone. The bear was shot sometime later on the river banks and weighed in at over 500 lbs.

Mike and Lucy Pundick at the Chemcell Klondike Party.

Mike and Lucy are still on the farm. The occasion of their youngest son Walter's engagement to Elizabeth Mills, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bill W. Mills of Edson, provided for the latest family gathering. Most of the immediate family gathered at home with friends and relatives for a lovely outdoor party planned by Lucy. Everyone enjoyed the good old-time music of Andrew and Sidor Fedoruk and Trifon Arychuk. Hopefully future generations of the family will be able to enjoy many more such occasions on "the old homestead".

NICK AND MARY PUNDICK

by Nick Pundick

Name of Parents: Stepan Pundick, Maria Taschuk, both born in the village of Rewna, near Chernovtsky, in the Ukraine. Parents arrived in Canada in 1903, at Halifax, then travelled by train to Edmonton. From Edmonton they went by wagon to a homestead near Bellis, Alberta, where they lived for a year. Nick Pundick was born there in 1905. Then they moved to a homestead near Brosseau, near Maria Pundick's parents' farm.

Nick Pundick's first recollection is of life in a small sod house on this homestead. The first year on the

homestead his parents planted a bit of wheat on land they had cleared, then his father walked to Edmonton to work on the railroad, and his mother was left to look after the children and thresh the wheat. She smoothed an area of ground, beat the wheat with two sticks joined together, then washed and dried it and made flour by grinding the wheat between two stones. His father spent his wages on salt, sugar, flour, coal oil, fence wire, etc. His father and other district farmers hired a team of horses and a wagon to bring back with them to Brosseau the staples they had bought in Edmonton. One year they had built a raft and set off down the North Saskatchewan River. The river froze before they could complete their journey and they were again forced to hire a team of horses. The farmers at the time used oxen, a small hand plow, and scythes for harvesting. They were beset by early frosts. They cleared the woods and brush by hand.

In the early days their food consisted of prairie chickens, partridges and rabbits which they had snared, and fish, saskatoons and cranberries, as well as the vegetables they grew. They bought cloth in Edmonton from which they made their clothes. Several times each year the people from the district would gather at various churches to commemorate religious holidays. These gatherings turned into the main social events of the year.

Nick Pundick first went to school when he was 7 years old. He believes the school was built between 1910-12. He went to school for approximately 6 years, for 2-3 months a year, whenever a teacher could be found to live at the teacherage and teach at the school.

Nick Pundick and his brothers worked on their parents' farm and they worked for other farmers in the neighborhood. They saved their money and gave it to their father, who eventually bought farms for each of them. There was a severe drought in 1918 and a frost in 1919, which left the district farmers with only enough of a crop from which to salvage seed grain. The farmers used horses and a scraper to cut roads out of the prairie wooded areas.

When Nick Pundick and his brother and sister contracted typhoid fever in 1923, their parents were forced to hire a car from Duvernay to drive them to the hospital at Vegreville.

Stepan Pundick owned the first threshing machine in the neighborhood and used to do the threshing for his neighbors. This machine was hand fed and had a 10-horsepower engine. Previous to that, in approximately 1916-1920, a gentleman who owned a steam-engine-powered threshing machine used to go around the neighborhood to do the threshing for the district farmers. Before he arrived they were required to pile their grain in 4 or 5 stacks, to facilitate threshing. At first the grain was hauled by team to Vegreville, then to St. Paul, and then finally to Two Hills. When Nick Pundick was 15 years old, he hauled a load of wheat to Vegreville with his brothers and that was when he bought and tasted his first pear!

Nick Pundick bought his first car, a Chevrolet, in 1928.** He bought his farm (NW¼ 20-56-11-W4th) in the fall of 1928 and, fortunately, planted his first crop in 1929. With the money from his first crop, which he sold at $1.29/bushel, he was able to pay for his farm, whereas in 1931 the price of wheat fell to 18-22¢ per bushel, In 1932, for instance, he had to pay 6¢ a bushel to have his crop threshed, and sold it for only 22¢ a bushel.

In 1933 Nick Pundick married Mary Hnatiuk, who had arrived in Canada in 1930 at age 16, from Hrybowa, Volynia, Poland, and was living with her married brother, Terenty Hnatiuk, on a farm in the Foisy area. She had gone to school for a year to learn to speak the English language.

Nick and Mary Pundick lived on their farm until 1954, when they moved to Edmonton with their four children, Lorayne, Lillian, Rosa-Lynne and Bary. Nick worked as a labourer and jack-of-all-trades in Edmonton until his retirement in 1974. Mary Pundick worked for several years as a cook.

METRO PUNDICK

by Robert Bachelet

Metro was born on October 12, 1894 in Bukovina, Ukraine. He immigrated to Canada to start a new life in a new country. In 1918, he met Paraska Chernichan of Bellis, and on February 13, 1919, they were married. Paraska was born on October 27, 1903 in Whastao, Ukraine. Metro and Paraska farmed in the Foisy area raising 8 children.

William married Victoria Eluik of Two Hills and had 2 children, Shirley and Josephine.

Kay married Gene Mudry and had 2 daughters, Glenna and Cheryl.

Mike married Greta and had 2 children, David and Janet.

Nick married Gloria Tkachuk and had 2 children, Gail and Naylene.

Mrs. Bill Elluk and Mrs. Paraska Pundick in 1962, in Two Hills, opening Christmas Gifts.

Metro Pundick Family, back row, left to right; George, Nick, Bill and Mike Front row, Rose and Kaye.

George married Thelma Kabage and had 2 children, Gary and Barbara.

Rose married Steve Plaska and had 1 child, Ricky.

Two children passed away as infants in 1924. Metro Pundick passed away August the 3rd, 1940, and was buried in the Mamaestie Greek Orthodox Cemetery. March 7, 1970 saw the passing away of Paraska Pundick, also buried along side her husband in the Mamaestie Greek Orthodox Cemetery in Brosseau.

GEORGE PUNDICK

by Robert Bachelet

George was the fourth son of Metro and Paraska Pundick of Foisy born on February 28, 1933, right at home. In 1940-44 George attended school at Mamaestie finishing his grade four. George remembers the year that

Left to right: George Pundick, Gary Pundick, Barbara Pundick and Thelma Pundick.

Mamaestie put on a play for the festival that was held in Two Hills for all the local schools participating and Mamaestie took the first prize. Also Bill Sherstan used to take the Mamaestie Fastball club with his rubber tired wagon to play ball in Chesterville, Champlain, St. Laurent, Brosseau, and Duvernay. In 1944-46 on to Two Hills where at the same time George was the milk man delivering milk to all the households in Two Hills for 10¢ a quart from his mother's dairy farm. In 1948 George came back on the farm and took one year of correspondence finishing grade 8. Farming with his mother from 1949 to 1950 George used to hitchhike to Two Hills to play hockey for the Eagles. His first pair of skates on the farm was a board nailed to old shoes with 2 heavy wires running lengthways on the boards which was George's first skates. His first hockey stick was a bent willow from a choice tree. In 1951-52 saw George playing hockey for the St. Paul Hornets at which time he was employed by Horne & Pitfield for $150.00 per month. The winter of 1953-54 George went to Falher with Harry Stewart of Willingdon playing for the Falher Pirates. Back to St. Paul for the Hornets in 1954-55. In 1956-57 George went back to Falher with Marshall Dehid and Nestor Hryciw as a complete line to again play for the Falher Pirates. While in Falher, George worked for Chalifoux Motors and Canada West Seed Company for $1.25 per hour.

On August 1, 1958, George married Thelma Kabage at the Myrnam Greek Orthodox Church with the reception at the Two Hills Elks Hall. Thelma was the second daughter of Alec and Mary Kabage of Brosseau. She was born on May 21, 1939 at the St. Joseph's hospital in Vegreville. In 1946, Thelma attended St. Laurent school with Carmen C. Brosseau, as teacher, Helen Bandura for 1 year as supervisor, and Nick Hauca as teacher till 1950 finishing her grade 4. Then on to Two Hills by bus till 1956 completing her grade 12. Some of Thelma's teachers in Two Hills were Miss Helen Boyko, John Chepeha, Dmytro Podealuk, Mrs. Micheal Ponech, Nick Olinyk, Bill Dushenski, Bert Hohol, and Mrs. Guy Simmonds. After her schooling was over, she worked on the farm with her parents till 1958 when Thelma got married. After a 2 week honeymoon to Banff, Jasper, and Lake Louise, it was back to S.W.-20-56-11-W4 to commence a lifetime of farming.

Their first son Gerry Lee was born on August 10, 1959 in the Two Hills Municipal Hospital with Dr. Kushniruk in attendance. Gary completed his grade 12, and is now employed by the Department of Environment and also farming with his dad. At this time George is still playing for the St. Paul Hornets and also 1 year for the Vegreville Rangers, then moving to Two Hills in 1965 when the new arena was built and at this time George still plays hockey. In 1962, George purchased the Metro Pundick homestead, comprising of 3 quarters, and took a loan from Farm Credit Corporation at 5% interest. Later on he purchased Alec Kabage's 3 quarters of land to make his unit more viable.

In 1964, saw their first daughter Barbara Allison born on March 11, at the Two Hills Municipal Hospital with Dr. Derbawka in attendance. George and Thelma are still busy farming raising Hereford cattle, Yorkshire Hogs, horses, grain; when in 1974 Thelma went to Switzerland to purchase a purebred Simmental heifer, at a total cost of $8000.00. The heifer left Switzerland in August of 1974, was held in quarantine from September to April at Gros Iles Quebec, an island in the St. Lawrence, and arriving at the Pundick's farm in July of

1975. Thelma's grandfather, George Orlecki, remembers these types of cattle in the old country.

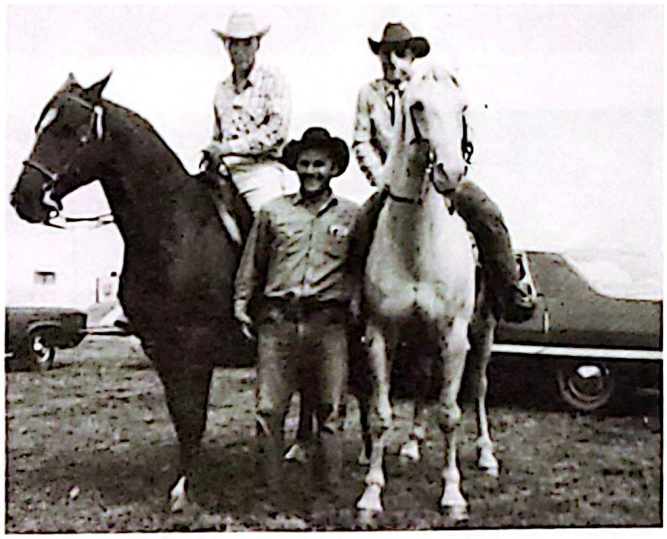
George and Thelma are very community minded, George being active in the F.U.A., Farmers Union of Alberta, canvasing for memberships, attending conventions in Edmonton. At this time George is still president of the Unifarm Local at Champlain. Also a director with the Brosseau Mutual Telephone Company, 16 years as a director on the Two Hills Municipal Hospital Board, 4-H Leader for the Brosseau 4-H Beef Club, for 2 years, Director of the Two Hills Agricultural Advisory Board, Director on the Mamaestie Greek Orthodox Church. Thelma also on the Two Hills Country Agricultural Advisory board, a position she still holds since 1969, Two Hills Recreation board, and also the Mamaestie Ukrainian Ladies Club as president. Gary and Barbara are both 4-H members and Thelma at this time is the leader of the beef club.

In January of 1975, George and Thelma took a second two-week honeymoon to Hawaii. George also played baseball for 20 years starting his career for the Brosseau Braves and later playing for the Two Hills Eagles. At one time, playing for Brosseau against Two Hills with Mike Tanne as umpire, it was announced, it was Pundick to Pundick, and Pundick at bat. George's brother Mike was pitching for Two Hills, his brother Nick was catching, and George was up to bat for Brosseau. George also attended a summer baseball camp at Renfrew Park in Edmonton in the early 50's for 1 week, sponsored by the Brooklyn Dodgers. George excelled as a catcher and a fielder. George's baseball career is limited to playing Old Timer's Baseball every Labour Day Weekend in September at the Brosseau Old Timer's Day. George also helps organize this event.

George thinks back of his younger days, when it was hitchhiking to Two Hills to play hockey, and later on riding his bike to Brosseau and Two Hills to play baseball.

Back row, Left to right: William Pundick, Stephan Pundick (grandfather), Mike Pundick, Kay Pundick. Front row, George Pundick, Nick Pundick, taken in 1936 on SW-20-56-11-W4.

George and Thelma are still busy farming with their two children. They have a full line of modern machinery, raising Simmental cattle and grain. One day every fall is set aside for branding, dehorning, and castrating of the calves. In the evening, Thelma as cook, and Bob Bachelet filleting, there is an annual prairie oyster feed. George and Thelma have purchased a motor home and hope to take the odd weekend off from a busy schedule of farming to enjoy a few nice weekends at the lake.



Two Hills Rodeo — Jack Damet, Ed. Elkow and Alex Kabage, in 1974.

THE PARADIS FAMILY

by Margaret Paradis

Aimable and Virginia Paradis moved from Manitoba in the early 1900's, with their 11 children and farmed in the Whitford district.

In 1918, two of the sons, Albert and Ulderic, decided to move to Foisy, where they bought land and built homes.

Albert and Eva Paradis on their wedding day. May 1919.

Mr. and Mrs. Alphonse Foisy.

Paradis Family. Back Row — Maurice, Mae, Ella, Ernestine, Roma, Claire, Camille. Front — Hormidas, Eva, Albert, Hilda.

Paradis Family (Hormidas). Dennis, Edmond, Lionel, Jeannette (Back Row). Margaret and Hormidas.

Albert met Eva Foisy, who had moved to Foisy with her parents in 1905. Mr. and Mrs. Alphonse Foisy had made the long trip from North Dakota, U.S.A.

Life in the early days was hard for the settlers. Land had to be cleared of bush, broken, seeded and harvested; fences built. Albert chose Eva Foisy as his life companion and they were married in May 1919. After a honeymoon trip to Edam, Saskatchewan, they made their home in the Foisy district where they raised a family of nine children: 3 boys — Hormidas, Camille, Paul — 6 girls — Hilda married to Joe Devlin; Ella married to Armand Doucet; Roma married to Edmond Poirier; Mae married to Maurice Serink; Claire married to Emery Webster; Ernestine married to Ted Ligvine.

Albert Paradis suffered a stroke in 1942 and so the boys continued to farm his land until he moved to St. Paul in 1951.

Hormidas married Margaret Yettaw in 1943 and lived on N.W. 27-56-11 — the quarter of land on which Foisy School had been built in the early 1900's — Mrs. Blanche Brosseau (nee Lafond) being the first teacher.

Hormidas and Margaret were blessed with 4 children: 1 girl and 3 boys. Jeannette married Clement Dubrule; lives in Sherwood Park; have 2 boys, Darryll and Randy.

Edmond, after finishing High School at Lafond, worked at the Chemcell Plant at Duvernay for several years. He chose for his wife Cheryl Latour and have made their home in Spruce Grove. They have 2 children: Adrian and Amber.

Lionel also worked at the Chemcell Plant in Duvernay for several years. He married Wendy Gormerly and have 4 children — Philip, Trevor, Dennis and Michele. They live in Leduc, Alberta.

Dennis, last of the Paradis boys, is planning on getting married August 2nd, 1980 to Joanne Onyschuk, and will make their home in Creston, B.C.

Hormidas and Margaret sold their farms in 1974 and moved to St. Paul. Hormidas has worked in St. Paul's only car wash since 1974. Margaret works at Sunnyside Manor.

LEON ROBINSON — DELINA BLANCHETTE

by daughters Emilienne Blanchette & Carmen Lambert

L'Anse Pleureuse is a little village on the south shore of the St. Lawrence River, between Mont Louis and Cap-de-la-Madeleine, County of Gaspe West, Quebec.

Leon, son of Pierre Robinson and Malvina Belanger, was born in L'Anse Pleureuse November 25, 1890. He had three brothers and one sister.

Delina Blanchette, daughter of Fabiana Blanchette and Eveline Robinson (no relation) was born in the same place on April 8, 1894.

Leon and Delina were married in Mont Louis, in 1911, where they settled. In summer he was a fisherman and in winter he went logging in the lumber camps of the region.

Friends of the family, Nazaire and George Robinson, had gone to the West to homestead in the Lafond-Foisy district. They wrote to a friend in Mont Louis, Philip Henley, that money could be made "by the barrel" so he joined them. Philip wrote back that a good living could be made in Alberta, and that good farms could be bought quite cheap. This induced Mr. & Mrs. Leon Robinson and Mr. & Mrs. Jean Henley to come too, in 1913.

Leon left Mont Joli with his wife and 5-week old daughter Emilienne. In Montreal, he had no money so he stayed there until he had enough for fare. They came by train to Vegreville where Nazaire Robinson met them. They spent the winter there before going to a homestead, 3 miles east of Lac Bellevue. There, they had a log

Family of Mr. & Mrs. Leon Robinson, taken in 1961, on the occasion of their golden wedding anniversary. Back Row (L. to R.) — Rene, Joachim, Leo, Zoel, Joseph. Front Row (L. to R.) — Carmen, Anette, Noella, Mr. & Mrs. Leon Robinson, Emilienne, Cecile, Laurette (missing Rita).

house. The roof provided no shelter against rains. When the water began to seep through, their only protection was an oil cloth on the table, under which they would huddle to try to keep dry. Rene, Joachim and Leo were born there.

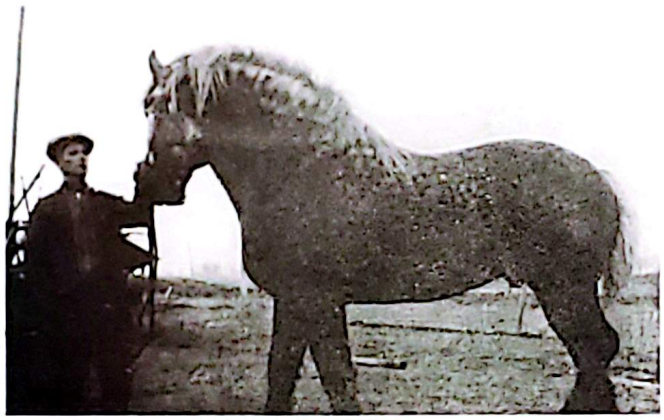
For groceries and other staples they had to go to Brosseau or Duvernay, with horses and wagon or sleigh. They shopped at Mrs. Rioux's store in Duvernay. Often they were caught in the rain, so everything would have to be dried when they got home.

In 1918, Leon decided to return to Quebec. For one year he worked around Mont Joli, but, conditions there were not the same as before he had left and the desire to return to Alberta became strong. As he always said, "Once you drink the waters of the Saskatchewan River you will always return". He did return in 1919 to the Lafond district where he rented a farm from Mr. Fortin. Emilienne, Rene and Joachim attended school for the first time, in Chesterville, where Miss Margaret McPherson (Mrs. Robert Watt) was teaching. Then he bought old man Prather's farm in the swamp. Zoel, Noella, Cecile, Joseph and Annette were born there.

Times were hard. For days on end they lived on porridge without sugar, but with milk from their cow. The boys would snare rabbits and prairie-chickens. Leon would go working in Lamoureux, near Fort Saskatchewan, and would walk both ways to save his money. The wages were $1.00 a day plus three meals a day. Mrs. Robinson would take in sewing for her neighbors.

This farm was unproductive so Leon disposed of it and bought another one from the C.P.R., on the east side of Big Fish Lake (now known as Lac Sante). Besides growing grain he raised horses, milked cows and had pigs and chickens. Laurette, Rita and Carmen were born there. It was another struggle for survival again. The older children left home early to find employment and to be married. In 1942, their oldest son, Rene, enlisted in the army and was overseas until the end of the Second World War. As times went by, conditions on the farm began to improve and life became easier for all.

Mr. & Mrs. Leon Robinson retired in St. Paul, 1957 leaving the farm to their youngest son, Joseph. Leon died November 23, 1961 and was buried on the day he would have been 71. Mrs. Robinson passed away September 15, 1979 at the age of 85. She was survived by 11 children, 54 grand-children and 60 great-grandchildren. Emilienne (June 17, 1913) married Philip Blanchette,



Mr. Leon Robinson with his Percheron stallion.

Mr. & Mrs. Leon Robinson and their grandchildren, taken in 1961.

Zoel Robinson was reputed to be a good hunter. Following in his footsteps is his nephew, Richard (son of Rene Robinson) proudly displaying the first deer he shot in November, 1975. Richard was 18 years old.

has 7 children, lives in Edmonton.

Rene (August 25, 1915) married Lucia Brosseau, lived in Duvernay, had 4 children, passed away August 9, 1976.

Joachim (March 2, 1917) married (1) Clara Fotty, has 2 children, lives in Oliver, B.C.

Leo (May 18, 1918) married (1) Lucy Hrushka, 3 children, lives in Oliver, B.C.

Zoel (May 10, 1921), married Marie Cartier, had 7 children, remarried Ramona (nee Black).

Noella (December 13, 1922), married Henry Chartier, has 5 children, lives in St. Paul, Alberta.

Cecile (May 6, 1924) married Albert Joly, has 7 children, lives in St. Paul, Alberta.

Great-grandfather Leon Robinson was a fisherman but so am I. I pulled this "big" one out of a hole in Saddle Lake on December 27, 1979, all by myself — Leah Filewich aged 7 years.

Joseph (August 29, 1926), married Noella Foisy, has 5 children, lives in Prince George, B.C.

Annette (April 14, 1928), married (1) Claude Lord — one son; (2) William Radies — one daughter.

Laurette (February 11, 1923), married Lucien Poulin, has 5 children, and became grandmother of twins born March 8, 1980, giving her, now, a total of 4 grandchildren.

Rita (August 11, 1931), married (1) George Lavallee and had 3 children; (2) Joe Svotos and lives in Hixon, B.C.

Carmen (October 6, 1933), married Leo Lambert, has 4 children, lives in St. Paul.

JOSEPH ROBINSON

by George Robinson

Joseph Robinson, born in Hull, Quebec in 1884, an only child of Odile Banier and Nazaire Robinson. He moved to Lamoureux, Alberta in 1901, met and married Marie Fortin, daughter to Joseph Fortin and Adelina Tremblay. They had a family of ten: five girls and five boys. Odellie, married Aime Lafond; Marie married to Joseph Robinson; Leo married Emile Cloutier; Emma married Ernest Cloutier (Justice of Peace); Louis; Francis (Veteran of Ist War); Felix married Adele Bolduc; Anton married Sadie Whitford; Berthe; Benoit married Bernadette Laplante.

Mr. & Mrs. Nazaire Robinson, 1934.

Joseph and Marie lived in Lamoureux (by Fort Saskatchewan) from 1903 to 1905, but filed a homestead in 1904 in the Lafond district. Section 34, Township 56, Range 11, (3 miles west of Lafond). He built a log cabin, did some breaking, but went back to Lamoureux for the fall of 1904.

Their first son Francis was born in Lamoureux in 1904. In February of 1905, they moved to their log cabin in Lafond. There was no snow on the ground at that time of year. They had a Prairie Fire in the month of March. They made a Fireguard to save their buildings, them-

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Robinson, 1908 standing by the Cloutier house in Lafond.

selves and their belongings. There was no church in Lafond, so Mass was sung in C.B. Lafond's private home occasionally. Church was built in Brosseau in 1907, and they travelled to Brosseau until the Church was built in Lafond. Father Russon sang the mass at this private home and also at the Sacred Heart Mission in Saddle Lake. Nuns were also staying in that Mission, teaching the natives. The closest grocery store was in Brosseau, owned by Hector Brosseau's grandfather. Their closest railway line was in Vegreville.

Mrs. Robinson was always kept busy knitting from wool she carded and spun by herself, and sewed for all her children with lots of pride. She baked approximately 50 loaves of bread a week so she could feed her family of 18. Joseph's parents, Nazaire and Odile, filed their homestead next to their son's, but stayed in the same house and helped raise the family. Joe would bring wheat to St. Paul for milling. It would take 2,400 lbs of flour a year with all the baking she would do. In the fall a load of grain would be sold to purchase 500 pounds of sugar, tea, molasses, salt and products for the winter.

For happy times, the children would slide down the hill with a horse cutter. Family picnics were organized very often by the families, just for a get together to play ball or have dances in each other's home. This was also done at Christmas and New Year's day.

In the fall of 1924, the Robinson's were struck by Smallpox. Fifteen of the seventeen were down with it, all at the same time, the twins were newly born and even had it. Only Grandfather Nazaire and Alice did not get it. Dr. Hardy from Brosseau came down and quarantined the family. A neighbour, Alderic Paradis would come every week to pick up a list of things they needed at the Brosseau store, and then would return with the goods, and leave them on the porch. Neighbours were always good to each other in times of crisis.

Until the railroad line was completed to St. Paul, all the pioneers as far east as Bonnyville, when having to travel to Vegreville or Edmonton would stop overnight at the Robinsons (STOPPING PLACE, it was called), TO REST THEIR HORSES, AND EAT WITH THE Robinsons. Some men would trade their horses with each other while they were staying at the Robinsons. The Robinson children would have fun helping themselves in the candy wooden buckets or in the bags of peanuts and would always hide their traces from the owners. Joseph Robinson was famous for trading horses.

In 1927, a new home was put up by the family on the same homestead. Joseph and his family stayed on the same farm until his passing, which was in the year of 1933 at the age of 48 years old.

Education was started for all the children at Big Fish Lake School District, 1½ miles across the field on foot. School was built on Northeast corner of Section 27, Township 56, Range 11.

Nazaire and Odile moved to Lafond townsite after Joseph's passing. Mr. Robinson was caretaker for the church for 10 years.

Marie stayed on the farm for at least two years, after which she moved close to Lafond where Rose, Pierre, Paul (twins) and Bernard could attend school. Narcisse stayed on at George's to continue school at Big Fish Lake School. Bernard and Paul finished their last years of school in St. Paul. In 1938 Marie moved to St. Paul, where they bought a log house from Camille Charron and tore it down, moved it, and rebuilt by some of her sons. This house is situated 5 blocks south of Lavoie Hotel where it still stands, and owned by Mrs. Joe Gamache.

Four of the Robinson sons were in the Army, but only Paul went Overseas. The war ended before Jean, Narcisse and Pierre finished their training.

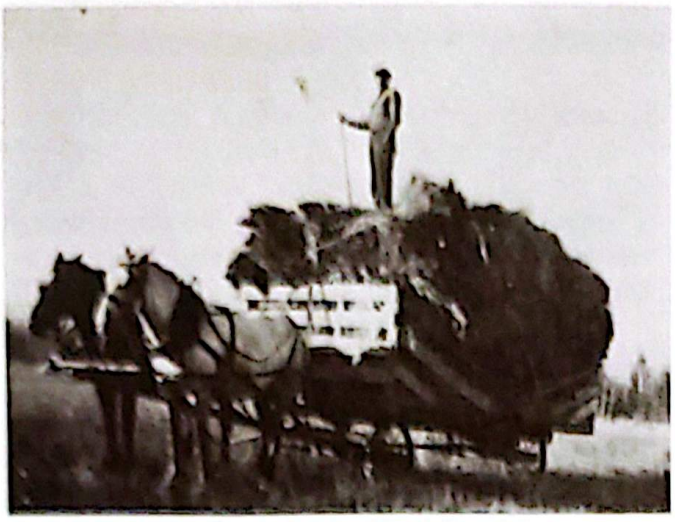
Marie passed away in 1947 after a lengthy illness. Francis (deceased in 1967), married Annette Malo and they had 14 children. Marie married Ovila Foisy (who passed away in 1958); George married Zelia Laflamme; Alice (deceased in 1977) married Joe Chartrand; Laurent married Jeannette Journeault (deceased in 1979); Jean (deceased in 1957) was married to Esther Ingram; Wilfred (deceased in 1913 at 6 months); Joe (deceased in 1978) was married to Laurette Lajoie; Louise married to Michel Gordy (deceased in 1979); Felix married Rita Pigeon; Narcisse (deceased in 1950) was married to Mariange Pigeon. Rose married Edwin Carlson. Twin Paul married Stefania Logozar; twin Pierre married Denise Robinson and Bernard married Stelle Krevenchuk.

GEORGE ROBINSON

by George Robinson

George Robinson, son of Joseph Robinson, Marie Fortin was born in Lafond, August 30, 1908, at home. Schooling was at Big Fish Lake School, 40 students with eight grades being taught by only one teacher.

At age nine he would help to drive the horses with his father, who would freight to Vegreville. This trip would take up to 4 days of the week, so that did not leave too much time for George to attend school. At 14 years, 1922, George went logging with his father, and grandfather, east of Goose Lake at Dubard and Baril's Mill, and would haul this lumber to St. Paul for $20.00 a thousand feet. Two years later, 1924, worked on railroad at Kiscoty



George Robinson on his new farm in 1947.

with Adelard Dupuis for the whole summer. Mr. Van Boxer was the contractor for this railroad. They stayed in a tent that summer.

At this time the railroad had come to St. Paul where a load of pilings and timber were unloaded from railcars. Ten or twelve sleds were loaded and brought eight miles east of Glendon where the popular fishing spot of Franchere Railroad trestle was built with this lumber. After the railroad work George worked for farmers for $2.00 a day. Then he moved to Lac Bellevue district where he worked one year for Joseph Laflamme, and met his future wife, Zelia Laflamme. They were married August, 1930, and moved back to the Foisy district and worked for farmers there until he moved to St. Paul in 1935, with a family of three children. Doris was born February 20, 1932; Maurice was born January 14, 1933; Beatrice was born January 19, 1934. Born in St. Paul was Patrice on Nov. 4, 1936, George bought a house and lot for $85.00, one block north of Imperial Lumber from Town and paid this house by hauling gravel with horses, for sidewalks they were building.

In 1938 he sold this house for $135.00 and took up farming 4 miles north of St. Paul. He bought this farm from Mr. David Charron for $2100.00 for ¼ section, 2 horses, 2 cows, all horse machinery and 15 hogs, also some grain. No cash and no interest were charged. Friends were trusted in those days, no necessary signatures were needed when buying things from each other. With that $135.00, George bought 3 cows for $76.00, 24 hens and one rooster. In that summer George milked 5 cows and churned butter from the cream and sold the butter for 13¢ a pound.

In the fall of 1939 Patrice was killed in a horse and wagon accident.

The family increased by three more sons and a daughter. Patrice was born December 13, 1939; Francis was born May 10, 1943; Delphis was born Oct. 27, 1947.

In 1948 George sold his farm to Adrien Gosselin for $4000.00 and bought a half section 1 mile north for $4000.00; farmed there for eleven years. Baby Alice was born on July 25, 1950.

There they celebrated their 25th Anniversary. Also Doris, Maurice and Beatrice were all married during that time.

In March, 1959 he sold the farm and moved back to town of St. Paul and took up carpenter work until retiring in 1974. When they moved to town they bought a small home, added on to this to make it a 5 bedroom house. For five years they kept as many as five boarders at a time.

After quitting having boarders, Mrs. Robinson started babysitting for other people.

Mr. and Mrs. Robinson are enjoying their retirement in comfort centrally located. Living close to them are Doris who married to Arthur Blanchette in 1950; mother of three daughters and two sons and grandmother of three; Maurice married Denise Lafreniere in 1952, father of nine boys, grandfather of five. Maurice and Denise and their two boys now live in Lloydminster. Beatrice married Nick Bodnar in 1954, mother of three boys and a daughter, grandmother of one; Patrice married to Denise Roberge in 1960, father of three daughters and grandfather of one; Francis married Jeannine Preville in 1965, father of two daughters, all living in Grande Prairie. Daughter Alice, married Jerry Dutton in 1970. She's the mother of a daughter, and all three are living in Edmonton.

OLEXA & GEORGE RUPTASH

by Mrs. George Ruptash

"Every one is an omnibus in which his ancestors ride." Oliver Wendall Holmes.

Olexa, second son of Petro and Liseveta Ruptash, was fascinated by the accounts told by friends who had returned to Ukraine from Canada to bring their families back to that wonderful country. The picture of a dream began to take shape — to obtain and own a parcel of land-160A. — for the meager sum of $10, a dream which proved to be impossible to resist. So, on May 10, 1901 with his wife & his five children he left his country and relatives to give the opportunity of a freer and better life for his growing family.

First house on the Szepenitz homestead.

GOVERNMENT
PROVINCE
ALBERTA
CANADA
1905
1955
GOLDEN JUBILEE
SENIOR CITIZEN AWARD
To all to whom these presents shall come
Know Ye That the People of Alberta have always recognized and been truly appreciative of the Valuable Contribution made to the Development of the Province by the Pioneers and Senior Citizens thereof,
and That
George O. Ruplash
Having been a Resident of Alberta during or before the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Five and now residing during the Celebration of the Golden Jubilee of Alberta in the Province of Alberta, is hereby awarded the Golden Jubilee Senior Citizen Award of the Province of Alberta.
In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty-Five, for and on behalf of the People of Alberta.
Premier of Alberta
Provincial Secretary

It might seen romantic to us now but at the turn of the century to give up a way of life, a country with a mild climate, to face the unknown, the privations of another country known to them in name only must have required a strength of character and a love of one's own flesh and blood far above that which we would like to give ourselves credit for.

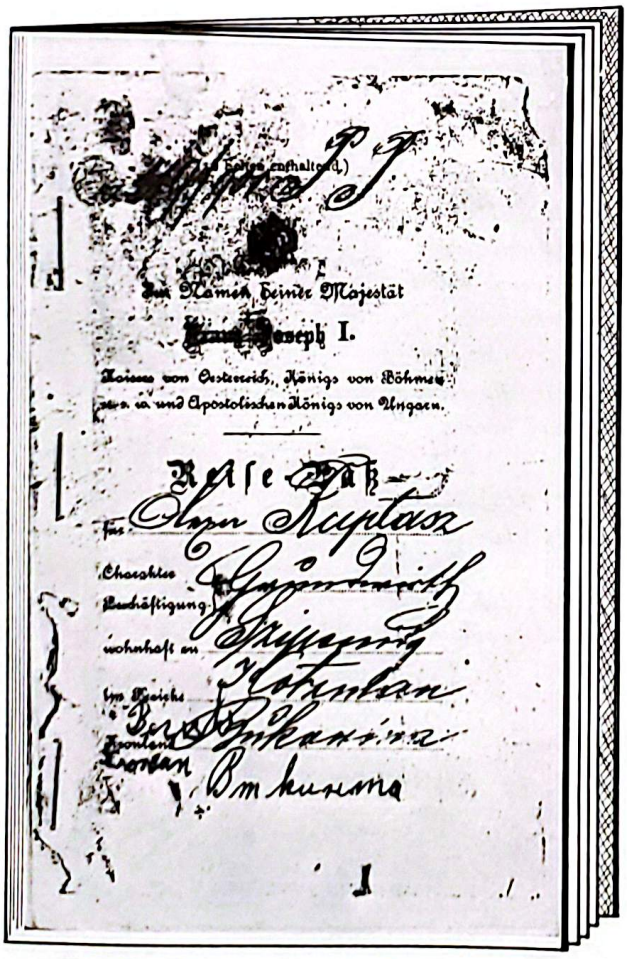
So it was that Olexa Ruptash on May 14, 1901 with $110 in his pocket but his heart full of courage and vision left Szepenitz, Bukovina. The month long voyage took them first to Hambourg, Germany, by train. There they embarked on the S/S ARMENIA. The hold of the steamship they shared with the cargo and cattle — a partition, no, a blanket separating them and on June 14, they landed in Halifax, Canada which must have looked like the Promised Land to them 15 days after their departure from Szepenitz.

There, they were registered under the name RUPTACHE by a Frenchman, no doubt. This incident of a mispelled name was to cause headaches and confusion in years to come for the descendants seeking naturalization paper or were drafted during the war. The Ukrainian alphabet being different from the English, the passport lists of the name as RUPTASZ — Polish the Immigration Office — Halifax as RUPTACHE and later RUPTASH became the accepted spelling, in English Canada. From Halifax it was rail travel again for 10 days on a rough and slow journey to Edmonton. The Immigration Hall was their home for the next 3 or 4 days while they waited for a team of horses to take them to Nicolai Yachemchuk's.

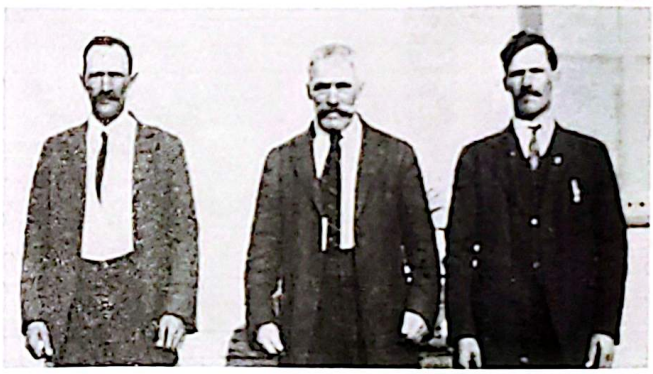
These hospitable people had nothing better to offer them than the loft of their barn and clean hay or straw to sleep on. They stayed there for the next 2 weeks during which time Olexa and Metro (brothers) travelled north to look over the homestead chosen, walk back to Edmonton (via Victoria Trail, north of the Saskatchwan River, 90 miles east and landed at what is now called Hairy Hill) to file the NW¼ 20-55-13-W4th at Szepenitz and take roots.

In a dugout or a sod house built in a hurry, the family lived, worked and prospered. These last words hide the history of self-sacrifice and rewards too long to mention in this brief account.

Olexa Ruptash married Sandra Eliuk and they had 10 children: 2 daughters and 8 sons. George, the second son, married Kalyna Werenka who died in 1936. He married Eva F. Duguay in 1945. She was a high school teacher in many localities, St. Paul, Hairy Hill (7 years) and Two Hills (4 years) prior to her retirement in 1961. Numerous were the young she has encouraged and guided through those formative years and the memories of those blessed hours make her quiet days now a haven of pleasure.



Olexa Ruptash's passport issued in Germany 1901.



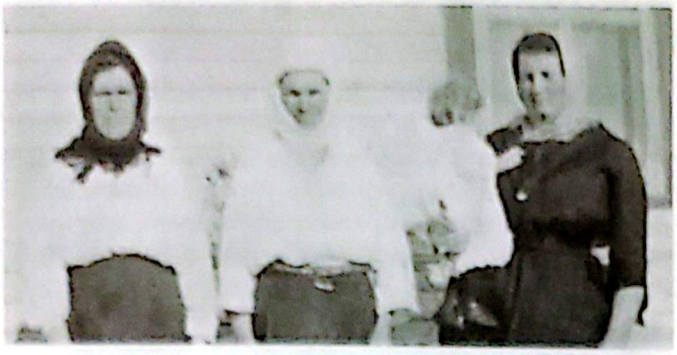
From the left — Bill Ruptash (son), Olexa Ruptash (father), George O. Ruptash (son).

The St. Laurent School in Brosseau has, at times, called upon her to give a helping hand if illness befell a member of the staff — at one time it was a prolonged stay, from March until June. Another diamond in her crown!!!

Mrs. Ruptash also tried to add a little harmony during the Sunday Mass in Brosseau, by accompanying, on the organ, the willing congregation whose voices did not have to be begged to fill the church with very pleasant sounds.

Previous to his first marriage, he obtained a homestead in the Musidora district. It proved to be unsuitable for farming and was left unimproved. He exchanged it for another at Szepenitz, Alberta, SW¼ 25-55-13-W4th where he built a good and large home to raise 3 sons and 2 daughters: Frank, Sylver, Jean, Nick and Mary.

1. Frank married Nellie Olinyk. They have 4 children:



Mrs. Hohol (Mary Ruptash), Sandra Ruptash (mother), Kalyna (Werenka), George Ruptash's first wife and baby Mary.

A. Laurence married Lil Nasadyk. They have 3 children, Desserie, Troy and Lara. All are interested in Figure Skating and are doing well. Troy was a Silver medalist at age 9 and Bronze medalist in 1979 in the Canadian Championship contest in Thunder Bay, Ontario.

2. Jeannette married John Semotiuk, a pipefitter. They have 2 daughters, Melanie and Jaryn.
   — Edna is an accountant at the Toronto Dominion Bank in Toronto.
   — Tammy is working presently at W.W. Cross Clinic in Edmonton.

75th Anniversary Family Reunion July 31, 1976. All surnames are Ruptash except for one. Top — Billy, Sam, Eli Tony; Middle — Andy, George, Bert, Lawrence, Harry, Ed, Alex; Bottom — Sylver, George, Frank; Larry — Mayor of Veg.

Mr. & Mrs. George Ruptash in August, 1973.

3. Sylvester is married and lives in Squamish, B.C. and is a Lumber Grader.
4. Jean married Steve Michalchuk and had a daughter, Gloria. Hair stylist.
5. Mary married Leonard, Bechthold. childless. She is head accountant, Physics Department, University of Calgary.
6. Nick died a teenager.

George's great desire was to give his children the opportunities that had been denied him. This prompted him to move his family to Edmonton in 1929 where he operated a business. But the call to the land was strong and in 1933, he purchased the half section N½ 15-55-14-W4th which he still owns and farms while living in Two Hills. He commutes from there and is interested mainly in Cattle, although he is semi-retired, now.

***** ODYSSEY *****

For Olexa Ruptash
(July 29, 1976)
On the 75th Anniversary of the
Ruptash family in Canada —
Gleaned from "The Producer"
by Glen Sorestad

he left the Ukraine's fertile earth
(where he first came to love the touch
of soil crumbling through his fingers)
for the new wind and grass — swept plains
in a land so far away and so strange
a man could travel half a world without
the sweet sound of a familiar tongue.

but the prairie soil was good
a piece of home under an alien sky
a monster of emptiness sliced
by a steel-road with ties laid down
by men like him who sweat and froze
across a continent and were held
and he knew the feel of this soil
was good and this land would mother
many with plenty and serve them well.

the farm was bought and raised them
they came to know the evening coyote song
the flying V's that wedged spring northward
the bitterness of winter's numbing grip
the wild sweet strawberry on the tongue
the fury of a sudden summer hail.

they learned and they grew into the land
bringing lore and love with them
lore to add to those around
who became daily less strange
as they themselves learned and
love for the land, themselves and
those who helped them learn and love.

the horses switched the summer flies away
and scrunched the winter banks of snow
plodded waist deep in the whispering hayfields
hoofed up the spring-wet earth at seeding
always pulling one season into the next.

for fifty years the land grew them
the harvest fed and clothed them
two daughters grew to the land
five sons came to hold the plough
to follow their father to the soil
and sift the good earth
through their fingers.

the soil still grows and the westerlies
whip dust swirls around the empty farmhouse
spring wheat still leans leeward but the wind
whistles hollowly now through the empty barn.

***** ***** *****

MICHAILO AND DOMNA RUSSNAK

by Mike Rusnak

Michailo and Domna Russnak were both born in the City of Nepolokoutz, in the Bukowina region of Austria.

In June of 1903, when Michailo was twenty-six and Domna was twenty, they were married. That August, accompanied by Michailo's mother, Kataryna, they sailed from Hamburg, Germany to Canada aboard the S.S. Palanza.

Michailo and Domna Russnak.

The trio arrived in Halifax on September 23, 1903. From there, they proceeded to Edmonton where they arrived less than a month later on the ninth of October.

Taking all the supplies they could carry, they walked eighty miles to Two Hills, skirting lakes and other natural obstacles. The walk took them approximately seven days.

That fall, they filed for a homestead located about four miles north-west of Two Hills. Their first Canadian winter was spent with Mr. Kost Fedoruik and his family, in Two Hills. Mr. Fedoruik was Michailo's brother-in-law.

For many years, Michailo walked to Edmonton in the spring, worked until freeze-up, and returned to his homestead in the winter. In Edmonton, he worked on the High Level Bridge while it was under construction, and on railroad construction — most of which was for the Canadian Pacific Railroad. Michailo made these seasonal trips in order to save money for the purchase of oxen and necessary equipment for his farm.

During his absence, his wife Domna and his mother, Kataryna, remained on the homestead. They planted a garden and worked on the house. The house was built entirely from hand-hewn logs made from local woods. All their land (originally a half-section) was broken by oxen and a walking plough.

Michailo and Domna Russnak raised a family of twelve children. All of them were born at the homestead with the aid of a midwife. For some of them, Kataryna acted as midwife.

Michaeilo and Domna raised five sons and seven daughters. From the eldest to the youngest, their children were Ken, Mathew, Fred, Eva, Bessie, Mary, Kate, Victoria, Dorothy, Anne, Mike and George.

Michailo and Domna Russnak were very religious. Using oxen and later, horse teams, they travelled the four miles to church in Shepentz practically every Sunday.

Michailo Russnak died in 1963. Domna followed him in 1966. They are survived by four sons, four daughters and thirty grandchildren.

FRED AND RUTH RUSNAK (NEE PUNDICK)

by Fred Rusnak

Ruth and I were married July 22, 1928 at Mamieste Church in Brosseau. After the wedding we took up residence on ¼ section approximately 2¼ miles north of the Saskatchewan River. Our farm, along with a team of horses were bought from George Legree. He also gave us a dog as a package deal. Our honeymoon was spent out in the field picking stinkweed by the wagonfuls.

A year and a half later our first child was born, a daughter Doreen, followed by son Fred and daughters Kathleen and Marian. Doreen and Fred reside in Edmonton and Kathleen in Calgary. Daughter Marian passed away in June, 1961, at the age of 19. We are blessed with 9 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild.

I served as a school trustee, board member for the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, where my wife was also active, as well as a Co-op representative. I took part in the construction of the bridge across the Saskatchewan River between Duvernay and Brosseau. I also opened a gravel pit south of Two Hills, for which I received $60.00. This money was put towards a life insurance.

Fred and Ruth Rusnak family, Doreen, Freddie and Kathy.

Some of our fond memories of the past were transporting Father Compeau from the train at Two Hills to his rectory at Brosseau. It was a very cold winter night and when we arrived at the rectory he invited me in, and brought out some of his holy wine. That was the best drink we ever had even though the wine was partially frozen. We also participated in the Saddle Lake treaty at Saddle Lake. One such event stands out in our minds. While enjoying the vents a hail storm came through during the afternoon. We all took cover under the tent, but in order for it to stay on the ground we all had to kneel and hold it with our hands, including Ralph Steinhauer. I think we all learned how to pray that afternoon.

During our farming period I made several emergency trips to the hospital. First trip was in March to St. Paul when our daughter Kathleen was born. Lucky that we had a good team of horses for we made it. A year and a half later a car trip to Vegreville where our youngest daughter Marian was born. This was a close call but we made it. The other was also a trip to Vegreville hospital, when John Kozak had his arm caught in a wood cutting power saw. With the help of the neighbors and several team of horses pulling the car through the snow drifts we also made it.

In the spring of 1947, we decided to pull up stakes and move to the big city of Edmonton. The children were very unhappy with our move. Later we sold our farm to Hector Coutu who was our next door neighbor. My wife found employment with Hudson's Bay and I went to work for Canada Construction as a yard man. We are both retired from our jobs and spend our leisure time amongst our children and a few side trips to various countries.

Fred and Ruth raised four children of which three are still living. Fred Jr. and Doreen are living in Edmonton. Katheleen is living in Calgary. They have nine grandchildren and one great-grandson.

RIOUX FAMILY

by Madonna Rioux

Louis and Hilda Rioux came from Trois Riviere, Que. and along with their adopted son Joe settled in Duvernay, Alberta. Old timers will recall the grocery store operated for years by the Riouxs.

Joe Rioux married Adeline Tremblay on Feb. 2, 1921. Adeline was born at Lamoureux, Alberta. Her parents travelled from Chicoutimi, Que. by Red River Cart, battling endless difficulties along the way. Poor roads, little money, sickness and bad weather were only a few of the hardships. Her mother Marie Drolet was born at Lac St. Jean, Que. on July 11, 1868. Her father Touissaint Tremblay was born Nov. 1st, 1857 at St.

Sitting - Toulssaint and Marie Tremblay. Back row L. to R. Son Joe and wife, Della, Beatrice. Front row - Aurele, Adeline and Marguerite on knee.

Jim and Lillian Crawford and family.

Back row L. to R. Foster child Eugine Frochler, Madonna and Louis Rioux, Ray. Front row - Carol and Adele.

Felicien, Que. Touissaint and Marie had 11 children. Five girls and one boy survived. Touissaint (which means all-saint) was truly a saintly man. He was always on hand to drive the parish priest, by team to say weekly Mass, in the country. Mr. Tremblay was a 3rd order Fransican.

When Joe Rioux married Adeline, his parents gave him land with a set of new buildings only 1½ miles south of Duvernay. Out of this marriage three children were born, one daughter and two sons. They were raised on this home farm and received most of their education in the Duvernay school.

The oldest child, Lilianne, born April 18, 1923, married Jim Crawford in July 1945. Jim was with the Canadian Air Force during World War II. They had 5 children.

Rene and wife Barbara have two sons, Bradley and Kevin.

Linda.

Vivian and husband Larry Binnion.

Jim and Lil's youngest child, Marcel, passed away as a result of an accident in July 1975. All of the Crawford family live in Edmonton.

The Rioux's oldest son, Louis, was born May 25, 1924. He married Madonna Wirachowsky at Duvernay on Oct. 11, 1945. Louis and Madonna live in Bruderheim, Alberta. They have three children and one foster child.

Ray and his wife Liz have two daughters, Sherry and Melissa. They live in Edmonton.

Adele and husband Don Stav have two daughters, Crystal and Mandee. They reside at Wembley, Alberta.

Carol and husband Craig Achtymichuk make their home in Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta.

Foster child, Eugine Frochler, lived with Louis, Madonna and family for five years and still comes home to visit his family.

Joe and Adeline Rioux's youngest child, Marcel, lives at Wabamun, Alberta.

The Rioux children, Lil, Louis and Marcel are 10th generation Canadians on their mother's side (Tremblay).

Joe Rioux, having spent most of his life farming at Duvernay, passed away in Dec. 1944.

After Joe's death, Adeline and her three children kept the farm going until 1948, when they sold everything and moved to a new life in Edmonton. Adeline passed away of a heart attack in May, 1975.

Joe Rioux (1921).

Louis, Lilianne, Adeline Rioux, and Marcel (kneeling).

PROKOP ROSYCHUK

by Robert Bachelet

Prokop Rosychuk was born in Czernovitz, Bukovina, Rumania, on March 5, 1891, of Austrian parents. He came with his family in 1902 from Hamburg, Germany and landed in Halifax, Canada, in May; a voyage which lasted 13 days.

On to Winnipeg, Manitoba, they went where they stayed in a house for immigrants until they could find a place to go. They then went to Canmore, Alberta where his father worked in a coal mine. Prokop went to school for the remainder of that year and, in 1903, went to work in the mine also. He had to open the doors for the coal-cars to go through. After his promotion he drove horses in the mine until 1913. He moved to Redwater, Alberta, and worked with his brother, Fred, until he acquired a homestead in 1914.

In 1915 Prokop married Mary Skakun of Brosseau and, in 1935 they moved to Brosseau SE¼ 30-56-11 W4. He farmed until 1940-45 when he went to work in the ship-yards in Prince Rupert, B.C. as a carpenter for $1.80 an hour. His son, Adam, took over the farming, but Mr. and Mrs. Rosychuk remained on the farm until they retired in Two Hills in May, 1978.

Prokop and Mary Rosychuk had six children: Sophie, born March 4, 1917, married Mike Kruse, 3 children, Nick, Nettie, Patricia. Annie, born June 2, 1919, married Alex Ternovoy, 4 children, Sandra, Diane, Sonia and Gail. Elizabeth, born March 26, 1921, married Peter Boyko, twins Jerry and Jimmy, Judy. Rosie, born June 4, 1923, married Nick Eliuk, 3 children, twins Gloria and Gladys, Don. Martha, born March 24, 1925, married George Pawliuk, 3 children, Debbie, Marilyn, Cindy. Adam.

ADAM ROSYCHUK

by Robert Bachelet

Adam was born April 2, 1925 in Redwater, Alberta, son of Prokop and Maria Rosychuk. In 1932 he started school in Redwater until Grade 4 and finished his schooling in Champlain School, Foisy, when his parents moved to the homestead on SE¼ 30-56-11 W4. His teachers were Miss Lucia Brosseau, Mike Fedoruk, Miss Pue and Miss Robin. During school holidays Adam was kept busy cutting and burning brush or picking roots for neighbors: W.J. Smith, Emile Swarschewsky and Bill Skakun.

At age 15, Adam quit school and worked full time for his father who was absent, working in the ship-yards in Prince Rupert. In 1943, Adam got his call for military service but, seeing he was an only boy and his dad working in the ship-yards, he was exempted.

On June 18, 1949 Adam married Anne Eliuk of Musidora, Alberta, in the Greek Orthodox Church, Vegreville, Rev. Father Chrystawka officiating. Anne, daughter of Metro and Kathy Eliuk, was born November 2, 1930, in the Vegreville General Hospital. She attended Nizir School with Miss Sophie Slevinsky and Mr. Coot as teachers, finishing in 1945. In 1946 Anne went to work for Shwed's Cafe in Two Hills for $28.00 a month without board and room, and she had to buy her own uniforms. From 1947-1949 she worked as a waitress in Vegreville until she met Adam and married him. They lived with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Prokop Rosychuk until 1957, when they moved to Nick Pundick's (NW¼ 20-56-11 W4) which they were renting. He started farming with 4 horses and worked out in spare time until he could acquire 6 horses and a harrow cart so he would not have to walk 16 miles a day anymore.

In 1946 Adam purchased his first "Cadillac" — a 1928 Model A Ford. These cars had no heaters so Adam proceeded to install one. In 1953 Adam began to be motorized too, with the purchase of a Massey-Harris 33 tractor from Danchuk and Rosychuk of Two Hills.

In 1975 Adam rented out his farm and he and his wife are now semi-retired.

On October 6, 1951, their only child, a son, Terry Dale, was born in Two Hills. Terry is married to Sonia Berehulke of St. Paul and resides in Peace River. They have a son, Gregory Brock.

RONALD ARTHUR & LENORE ROFFEY

by Lenore Roffey

Ronald was born on December 26, 1935. He is the son of Lawrence Wellington Roffey (1899-1978) and Francis nee Laforge, who homesteaded in the Westlock District.

In November 1957 he married Margaret Brenneis of Morinville. They had four sons: Dean was born on August 26, 1958. Keith was born on June 10, 1960. Philip was born on May 28, 1963 and coming up in the rear is Marvin, born near here at Elk Point on November 28th, 1964.

The Roffey's moved around quite a bit between Edmonton, Elk Point, Peace River/Grimshaw District, Cambridge Bay in the N.W.T., and Fort McMurray. While in Fort McMurray, Mrs. Margaret Roffey passed away in 1975.

The family then were transferred up to Yellowknife. Ron was working for the Ministry of Transport as an area mechanic, often flying to other settlements throughout the Central Arctic region doing mechanical work.

While in Yellowknife he met Lenore Cartier nee Heuchert, born on March 2, 1946 in Lemberg, Saskatchewan of Paul Heuchert and Louise (nee Heil), a farmer and a school teacher.

Lenore trained as an X-ray Technician in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan from 1965 to 1967. She worked in Saskatchewan until April, 1969. Then she went to Yellowknife, N.W.T. and worked in Stantan Yellowknife Hospital till coming to Brosseau.

Ron and Lenore where married on December 30, 1977 just a few months before coming to Brosseau to try their luck at business. They own the Brosseau Country Store.

OUR LOCAL BLACKSMITH

by Suzanne Coutu

Phil's father Peter was married in Austria and came to Canada with his new bride in 1902. He homesteaded the N.W. 32-55-4-W4th. They had no family when they arrived, all the children were born here on the homestead. They had a family of two girls and six boys, Metro, Filemon, Theodore, John, Harry, Nick, Katheleen and Cassie. Metro and John have both passed away.

Mr. Sidor lost his wife in 1934 and farmed till 1939. He then sold his farm and retired in Edmonton, where he passed away August 30th, 1956.

Left to right; Back row Metro, Filemon, Cassie, Theodore, and John. Front row left to right; Katheleen, Mr. Sidor, Mr. Peter Sidor, Nick and Harry.

Filemon was born on August 11th, 1911, and went to the Duvernay country school 3½ miles from home. It was a long walk to school but he really enjoyed his school years especially when Miss Leblanc started making Christmas concerts. He recalls that these concerts were something every one looked forward too.

Filemon admits that school was alright but his dreams were always of being a blacksmith. So he quit school in 1926 and kept himself busy making little wagons, sleighs bob sleds and odd jobs for the farmers. He made from nine to twelve dollars a month at these odd jobs he enjoyed doing. By 1929 he had saved enough money, that he was able to go to Edmonton and take an automotive course. When he came back he stayed with his brother Metro and had a shop on his farm till 1938.

On November 26th, 1935 he married Rose Eliuk who's parents also came from Austria in 1903. She was the daughter of Dan and Annie Eliuk who had five daughters and three sons.

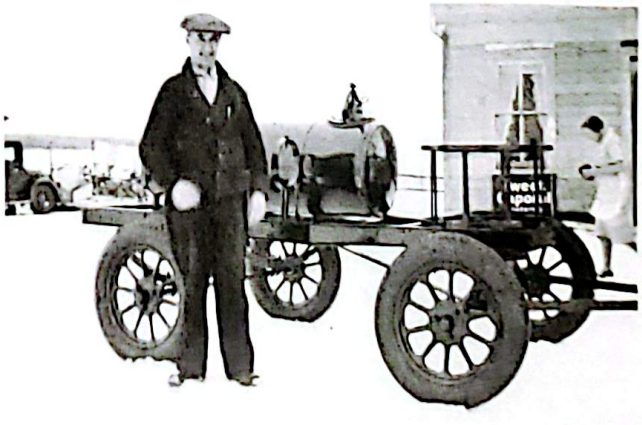
Moise Theroux who operated a store in Duvernay at that time rented Filemon and Rose a house in the hamlet for five dollars a month and he rented Albert Barne's shop on lot 8 on the main street for six dollars in advance. So in 1938 he got in business in Duvernay in a big way.

This first month he took in forty-five dollars. Thirty four was left after his rent was paid. Most people make that in a few hours work today, but he was happy to make that much at the trade he enjoyed and that was much better than the twelve dollars he cleared a month in the shop on the farm. In that new location he had lots of new customers. He also made wrenches and tools for the crew that was taking the old dredge apart.

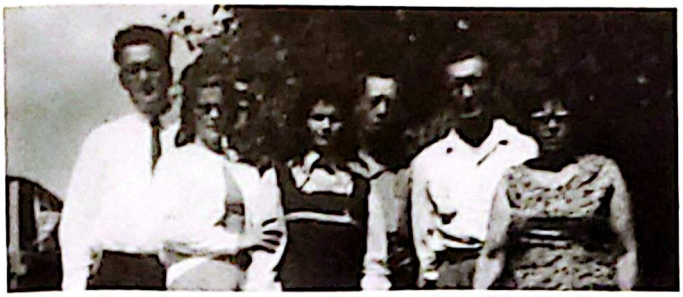
There was one big problem in Duvernay. His shop was next to a hog barn and there was so many flies that it was almost impossible to work in the day time. They were always buying fly spray till one day the stores ran out. It was so hot and the flies were really having a field day, so they decided to take a walk across the river to Bachelet's store to see if they had some for sale. Mr. Bachelet told them that the shop next door was for sale. He always dreamt of having a place of his own, so he lost no time in going to Mr. Brosseau to see if he would sell him the place. Within a few minutes a deal was made and they could move in right away, and he was the happiest man in the world.

On August 1st, 1938 they moved in to their new home and shop. It didn't take him very long to move his tools because all he had was an anvil, vice, forge, a set of plain dies and a wrench set. You can see he didn't need many tools to be in business in those days. Rose was also happy to have her first home adjoining the shop.

Filemon had his share of bad customers in his forty years working for the public. Shortly after he opened shop in Brosseau a stranger named Serbu came one day and asked him if he would build mobile fire extinguishers for him, for which he would pay him a good wage for his labour. Filemon agreed because he thought this could be the beginning of brighter days for his little business. This



Mr. Bachelet and one of the fire extinguishing machines built by Filemon Sidor for Mr. Serbu.



Raymond and Tilly Berlinguette, Edna and Lee Christensen, Filemon and Rose Sidor.

invention consisted of one large oxygen tank, flanked by two smaller fire extinguisher chemical tanks on each side. When the oxygen valve was opened and mixed with the chemical, it produced a heavy stream of white vapor that shot 25 feet out of the long hose which could be held by one man. All this equipment was mounted on a four wheeled wagon which could be pulled around or pushed by a couple of men. It was an invention that Filemon was proud to help build.

When one was completed he told Filemon that he had sold it and used the money to buy material to build two more outfits, but as soon as one more would be built and sold he would get paid for making the two. That sounded logical enough to Filemon so he went to work on the second one. When it was completed Mr. Serbu hauled it away and told him he had sold the machine but the buyer hadn't paid him for it yet and as soon as he got the money he would pay him in full. Filemon reluctantly went to work on the 3rd machine. When it was completed Mr. Serbu was very co-operative and helped Filemon take it out of the way to the far side of the shop. To Filemons surprise when he got up next morning the machine was gone. When he went to check at the hotel he found out Mr. Serbu had disappeared during the night without paying his bill. Filemon lost all his wages for the three machines he built but he never trusted strangers with their tall tales from then on.

He also took up horseshoeing which paid him 25¢ a hoof, 40¢ if it had to be shaped. Sharpening of plow shears was 30¢ each. However when he bought a larger welder he quit shoeing horses because it was a hard and dangerous job and he had enough work without that.

Later he bought a lathe and made nearly all his own tools. With the welder and the lathe he could just about make all the repairs for his customers and it was quite a challenge for him to try and repair anything brought to him.

On April 23rd, 1978 all the neighbors gathered in the Brosseau Hall and made him a retirement supper in appreciation for his 40 years of service to the people of the district. Rose and Filemon were presented with a recliner and coffee table and were happy to see all their neighbors present to wish them well in their retirement.

They have two daughters, Edna married to Lee Christenson and Tilly married to Raymond Berlinguette. Filemon and Rose are retired here in Brosseau and have no plans of moving any other place.

MIKE AND ANNIE SLEVINSKI

by Mike Slevinski

An early resident of the Kaleland-Two Hills area, Mike Slevinski, son of John and Maria Slevinski, was born October 18, 1896 in Yaseniw, Hordanka, Galicia, Austria. As a babe in arms, he arrived in Edmonton in 1897. He lived in Mundare, Alberta from 1905 to 1918 at which time he moved to the Kaleland area. In 1919, he married Annie Gorgichuk, born August 7, 1901 in Oshychliby, Bukovina, Austria, daughter of Eftemy and Anastasia Gorgichuk. The couple spent a brief time in Drumheller where Mike was engaged in mining before taking up farming in the Two Hills area. From 1939 to 1942, he served overseas with the Edmonton Regiment.

Mr. and Mrs. Mike Slevinski (1977).

In 1944, the Slevinski family moved to Edmonton where farming activities continued until 1953. At this time, land was acquired in the Eaglesham area where he and his wife farmed for many years. The 320 mile drive from Edmonton and the fact that he turned 70, influenced his decision to retire from farming in 1966.

However, the retirement was short lived since they decided to purchase a farm in the Beaumont area where he is presently actively farming. His wife passed away March 31, 1978.

Four daughters, Anne, Helen, Dorothy and Nancy reside in the Edmonton area; one son, Andy farms in the Eaglesham area. As well as the five children, he has seventeen grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

SYLVIO AND JENNIE CHOUINARD

by Blanche Bresden

Sylvio took his citizenship papers in his twenties from Minneapolis, U.S.A., then came to Alberta. He married Jenny St. Hilaire and before coming to Brosseau homesteaded in Vegreville for seven years.

Mr. and Mrs. Chouinard had three daughters and 1 son: Blanche married Charles Bresden; Germaine married Tony Pugliese; Gabrielle married Jim Miller; George, unknown who he married.

Germaine Chouinard on graduating from school of nursing.

Gabriel Chouinard and her husband Jim Miller taken in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories in 1942.

Wedding of Blanche Chouinard and Charles Bresden.

THE ST. HILAIRE FAMILY

by Yvette St. Hilaire

In 1903, Mr. Alphonse St. Hilaire, his wife Mary Celina and their family of six children left St. Edwidge, Québec for the West. Alphonse was the oldest son of Louis St. Hilaire, and was born in 1862 at St. Edouard de Lotbinière, Québec. St. Hilaires have been in Canada prior to 1704, and came from Normandy, France.

The St. Hilaires travelled west by train with two other families: the Desrosiers and the Lapierres. On reaching Edmonton, they got a scow (a large flat-bottomed boat) upon which they loaded their belongings and the three families sailed down the North Saskatchewan River to South Bend, the site now called Duvernay. They built a large shack as temporary accommodation on the south bank of the river at a spot west of the present hotel.

Alphonse St. Hilaire got a homestead, north of the Vermillion River about 4 miles east of Two Hills. Here he raised cattle which he marketed in Vegreville. This farm was referred to as "The Ranch", and many new comers found employment here.

At this time (1905) the Canadian National Railway was about to pass through Vegreville, and Alphonse St. Hilaire seized the opportunity to build a hotel there. Leaving hired men on the Ranch, he moved his family to

Gabrielle Chouinard and Grandma St. Hilaire (1933).

Vegreville. Business was very good, and he made a small fortune. With the purchase of the hotel, came a huge tame black bear that frequently terrorized non-desirable strangers especially in the early morning hours.

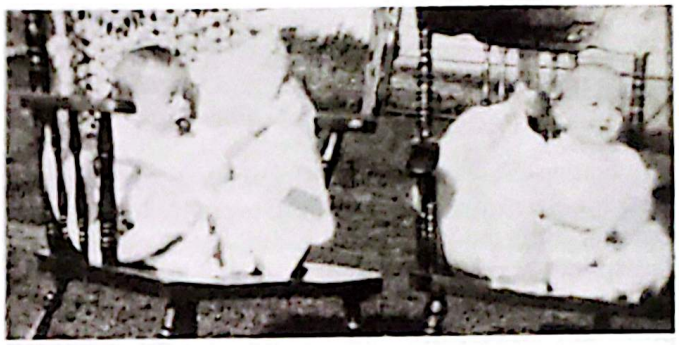
Once the railway had gone by, business slackened, so Alphonse sold the hotel, and returned to the Ranch.

However, Mr. Brosseau, a land-owner on the north shore of the North Saskatchewan opposite the developing village "South Bend", was anxious to see a village grow in that area too, so he offered Alphonse St. Hilaire a "FREE" piece of land on condition that he build a hotel on it. Alphonse accepted, and built a two-storey hotel to which he moved his family.

Sometime after 1912, he sold the hotel and bought a house on the north bank, below the Catholic Church site. (picture) From here, he continued his cattle-business — buying animals from the northern farmers and selling them in Vegreville to stock-dealers on commission.

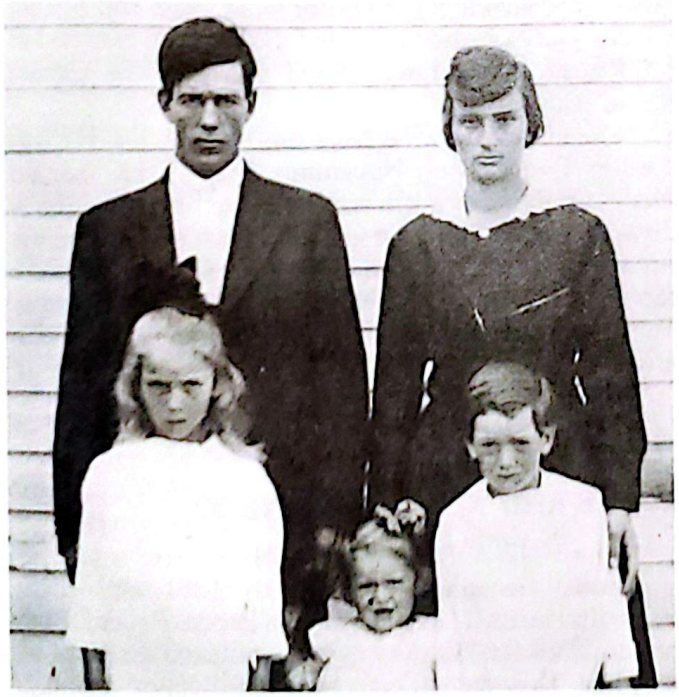
Alphonse died in 1927 at the age of 64. He had become blind. His wife lived in Brosseau a few more years. The Catholic priest on the hill frequently had his meals at Mrs. St. Hilaire's; and when Father Doyle got transferred to Wainwright, he persuaded her to come and keep house for him. This was in 1931. She returned to Brosseau in 1935 in June. She was very ill and died in November at age 72.

Alphonse and Mary Celina St. Hilaire had six children. Annie (Mrs. Charles Hardy), Eva (Mrs. Jean-Baptiste Vincent) and Jenny (Mrs. Sylvio Chouinard) lived in Brosseau for quite a few years. Victor, the third child, was killed accidentally in Vegreville in 1908 at age 22. Philippe married Emelda Desrosiers and moved to the United States. He passed away in Torrance, California in October 11, 1966 at the age of 76.



The St. Hilaire twins, Jeanette and Laurent, born Feb. 8, 1932. Laurent died 6 months after his birth.

Laurent St. Hilaire (the second) in 1939.



Mr. and Mrs. Zephir St. Hilaire with their three children Clarice, Yvette and Florien in 1920.

Mr. & Mrs. St. Hilaire are sporting their new 1923 Ford.

Zephire, the youngest of the family, got a homestead 5½ miles south-east of Duvernay in 1910. In 1912, he married Mathilda Theroux whose birthplace was St. Venant, Québec, about 20 miles from Ste Edwidge where Zephir was born. Strange that circumstances would be such, that they should both travel so far and meet and marry out West.

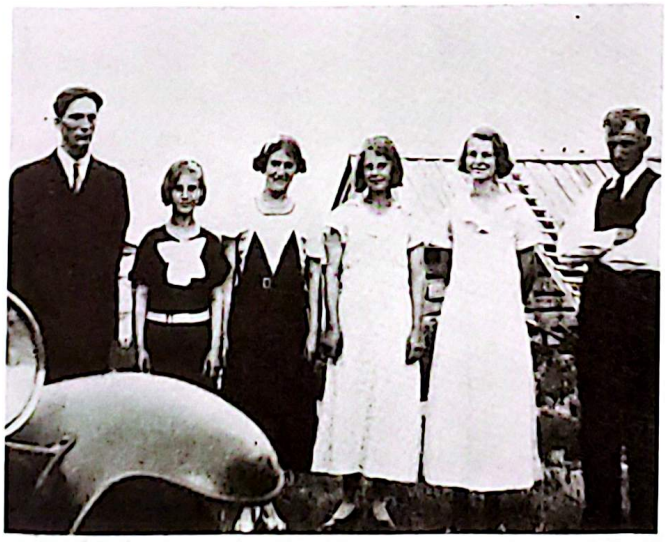
Zephire and Mathilda worked on that homestead plus additional land purchased later, for 30 long years. Six children were born to them: Clarisse (Mrs. A. Smithson), Florien (who married Edwina Lord), Yvette, Jeanette (Mrs. J. Hounsome) and her twin Laurent (who died at age 1 year, one month) and another Laurent (who married Marleen Smith)

In 1941, Zephire retired from the farm to St. Paul, but kept the farm for many more years. In 1947, he left for Victoria, B.C. in quest of a haven away from the cold snowy winters. He enjoyed many years here; and slipped away in his sleep on June 9, 1973 at the age of 81. His wife Mathilda still lives in Victoria, B.C. and is now nearly 87 years young.

FLORIEN ST. HILAIRE

by Edwina St. Hilaire

Florien St. Hilaire, son of Zephyr St. Hilaire and Mathilde Theroux, was born in Duvernay. In 1940, on October 8th, he married Edwina Lord, daughter of Telesphore and Marie Lord of St. Paul. His father left the farm, so he farmed his dad's land as well as some land he previously owned from Mr. Poirier. In 1947, they sold their farm and moved to Two Hills for the summer. He worked for Alberta Lumber Co. till October, then packed up for Victoria, B.C. He worked on construction around the city till the spring of 1949.



L. to R. Florien, Yvette and Clarise with the Paradis children in 1935.

Then they bought a store-filling station on 24 acres of land, 12 miles out of Nanaimo. They patched and repaired the buildings, cut the timber and sold it in July - 1950. He worked in a pulp mill for a while but he did not like the damp climate, so they moved back to the interior of B.C. The forest fires were real bad that summer and he did not wish to be a fire fighter, so he went to work at Wainwright, Alberta in July 1951.

Left to right Yvette, Clarise and Florien. A successful rabbit hunt in 1934. (St. Hilaire)

In 1952, when the Cold Lake Air Base opened, they moved there. They built two small houses and in September Florien went to work for Alexander Construction. He was with them for 3 years. In the fall of 1955 he went to work for Poole Construction, framing houses. But winter came and the working conditions were bad so he applied for a job with the Air Force as a maintenance man. He was hired for 30 days, but ended up there for fourteen years. In his spare time while working for the Air Force he managed to build six houses in Grand Centre.

As they were getting closer to retiring, their thoughts were back to the warmer climate in British Columbia. So, they bought an acreage in Salmon Arm and built a home there. They sold it at the end of three years and bought another piece of land in Creston, B.C. where they had to build again. They have retired there; as the climate agrees with them.

Florien and Edwina have one son, Victor. He was born in Two Hills on November 3, 1941. He married Muriel Clark, from a place close to Innisfail. They have three children; Owen, Ian and Erin. Victor worked in the Arctic as a radio technician for a year. He found the work too closed in for him so he came back to Edmonton. There he works for an oil well prefabricating company as a welder-fitter.

LUCAS AND NELLIE SAGANIUK

by Anne Chrapko

Lucas Saganiuk was born in 1861 and Nellie Samograd in 1881, in the village of Broda, Poland. Both had to work for "Barons" and were taxed for ¼ of all they had. They did not earn enough to support a family.

They wrote a letter to Mother's brother, Harry Samograd, who had migrated to Canada, and was living

in Beaver Creek, Alberta. He answered telling them to come to this country, where there was plenty of good land that they could get for free.

Father got his passport in early 1907 and the family sailed for Canada. Before leaving Germany they had to undergo a medical examination. The doctors found that brother John (17 years old) had Pink-eye, and would not give him a health certificate. He had to stay in Germany for one year and worked there before being allowed to rejoin his family here. The other children who came with Father were Dan (15 years old), Sam (12), Mike (10) and Peter (2). There had been two other children who died when they were small. Father and Mother were working in the "Baron's" hayfield leaving the children with his mother. The children were sleeping on the Dutch-oven bed, beside which flax-stalks were drying. Grandmother was working outside, when the stalks caught fire. When she came back the children had burnt to death.

Mr. & Mrs. Mike Chrapko (Anne Saganiuk) November 19, 1928.

To come to Canada, the family had new fur coats made of sheep-skin, new clothes and shoes, pillows and a comforter packed in a trunk. In Halifax they told the conductor to ship their belongings to their destination, which was Edmonton. Uncle Harry met them and they went to his home. Their trunks did not arrive, so Father wrote his brother Sam, in Poland, to tell him what had happened, asking him what they should do. Sam told him they would return it to Poland. We never did get the trunk and its contents!

In May, 1907 Father went looking for a farm. He came to Morecambe, and fell in love with the forest land. In Poland they were always short of wood and had to steal it from the rich land-owners or use refuse for their fires. Their Dutch-ovens needed a lot of fuel. These were made of clay, and the top was used as a bed. The heated clay stayed warm a long time, and kept the house warm.

In Poland they had planted flax and made linen for their clothes, but they found out that in Canada this was not done. There, they also grew poppies and from the seed they made oil, so they tried this.

Father told us that in Lent, a season before Easter, they lived on fish, Borsch, pyrohy, brown bread, no grease, only oil. It was sinful to eat meat of any kind, cream or cheese. When Lent was over they would have goodies, white bread, meat, cheese and eggs. Because of malnutrition he became blind for a while, but regained his sight. His eyesight was always poor.

Father was a strong Catholic. One winter, when the temperature was 40 degrees below zero, he was going to Beaver Creek with some friends. They were discussing religion and one of his friends said something nasty about the pope. My father said, "You are a devil and I will not ride with you." He got off the sleigh and walked home.

Mother was a midwife who helped a lot of her neighbors when their babies were born. She would also go to the homes where death had taken a child or a woman. While the men made the coffins from boards, she would wash and dress the corpses, making them ready for burial. At that time, the body was kept in the house for three days, on boards, while the woman did much cooking, preparing for the funeral.

When Father went homesteading, he got oxen to work with. He broke the land for grain and for a garden. He did not drive them to town because they were hard to control and so stubborn. In the summer, when it was hot and the flies bothersome, they would head-out for any slough or lake to hide in the water regardless of the driver.

In winter, when there was not much work on the farm, Father would go away to work. He knew how to read and write Polish, Ukrainian and German so it was not too difficult for him to find work.

Their few neighbors were Ukrainians, Germans and French. They got along fine, helping each other. It was hard for Mother, who knew only Ukrainian, and she did not know how to read or write. The German neighbors would come to visit and they would converse in sign-language. Thus, she learned their style of cooking, and she gave them her recipes for Ukrainian foods.

Father would walk to Edmonton for household needs, such as flour, sugar and salt. These they would buy in 100 or 50 pound bags. One day Mrs. Kolisniak, a neighbor who lived 6 miles away, saw him passing by. She called to him to bring her some flour, sugar and salt, too. He agreed. When he had finished his shopping, he realized that he could not carry all these groceries, on his back, all that distance. He built a raft and, after piling his purchases on it, poled his way down the river to Duvernay. There he was met by a friend and brought home with ox-and-wagon.

My sister Mary was born in Innisfree, Alberta, and so was I, on May 31, 1910. A post-office was opened in Musidora, Alberta. Then, in 1911, they opened a post-office and built a school, in Naughton Glen, which we attended.

Another tragedy happened to my family. When brother, Mike, was 18 years old he left home to go working. He wrote to my father telling him where he was and what he was doing. Father answered this letter, addressing the envelope in ink, but did not keep note of the address. It was given to brother, Pete, to mail at the

post-office, in Naughton Glen. On the way Pete met cousin Pete and they went wading in a slough. The envelope was dampened and the address was smeared so badly that it could not be read. Father could not remember the address so he could not write again. Mike probably thought that Father did not want to write to him. We never heard from Mike again and, until this day, we don't know where he is, what he is doing, or whether he is alive or dead.

Father continued farming in the district for many years. He was an interested horseman, raising race-horses.

In 1945 Mother died, and, in 1957 Father passed away. Of this pioneer family only two are known to be survivors. No one knows about Mike. Mary married John Ranchuk and lives in Banff. She has had eleven children. I, Anne married Mike Chrapko, November 19, 1927, and live in Two Hills. I have two children, Walter and Orest.

PIONEER STEVE SNAYCHUK

by Orest Snaychuk

I was born in Austria on December 27, 1897. I lived there with my parents until the age of seven. In July of 1904, my parents decided to move to Canada to look for land. We travelled by boat to Halifax, which took

Fred and Mary Snaychuk (Parents of Steve Snaychuk) with their sons Steve and Mike and two sisters Ann, and Mary.

fourteen days. From Halifax, we travelled by train to what now is the City of Edmonton. We stayed in Edmonton for three days, until we had means of transportation to get us out to look for land. My Dad bought a homestead in what is now known as the Two Hills District.

We homesteaded here from 1904 to 1913. In 1913, we moved to the Lafond District, where I worked with my father until 1924. It was in that year that I took possession of my own homestead in the Lake Bellevue District.

Later in the year of 1924, I met and married Anna (Hryhirchuk), and together we homesteaded till 1926. Anna was born in the Ukraine on October 29, 1905.

Rose, Cathy, Mike, Ann, Steve and Mary Snaychuk in 1974.

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Snaychuk's wedding picture in 1924.

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Snaychuk's 50th wedding anniversary in 1974.

We sold our homestead in Lake Bellevue and bought a farm in the Brosseau area in 1927, where we farmed until 1966. At this time we retired and moved to Edmonton.

We raised a family of eight children: Mary, Mike, Bill, Edward, Rose, Olga, Orest, and Raymond. In 1937, Bill passed away, followed by Ann in 1978.

WILLIAM CHARLES SMITH ALWAYS KNOWN AS "J.P. SMITH"

In 1871, William Charles Smith was born in Lichfield, England, and came to Canada, in 1902.

Mr. Smith joined the RNWMP in Fort McLeod, serving in southern Alberta until 1905 when he left the Force and took a homestead on NW¼ 32-56-11-W4th where he spent the next forty years.

W.C. Smith and only child Agnes, 1913.

In 1906 he married Edith Wilks in Saddle Lake. The officiating clergyman was Rev. Robert Steinhauer. Their only child was born October 26, 1907.

For many years he had the only phone in the Big Fish Lake District. He was also Justice of the Peace, hearing cases in his residence and was pretty strict. He would also go to court in St. Paul if more than one judge were needed to try a case.

Mr. Smith was friendly with the Indians of the Saddle Lake Reserve, trading with them.

In 1946 Mr. Smith moved to St. Paul where he died in 1950. Mrs. Smith remarried in 1952 to Nils Sherman. She passed away in 1964 and Nils in 1967.

THE RALPH STEINHAUER FAMILY

by Isabel Steinhauer

Ralph Steinhaurer was born on June 8, 1905 at Morley N.W.T. just three months before Alberta became a province. When Ralph was about three years old the family moved back to their own reserve at Saddle Lake. Ralph attended the Indian Residential School at Red Deer for several years. later, from the reserve, he attended schools at Doucet, Roseneath, Villette and Stry. In 1920 he and his older sister went to Brandon where they attended the Indian Residential School there for three years.

For several years after returning from Brandon in 1923, Ralph helped his Dad on the farm in summer and worked in a General store and post office in Vilna during

Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary — 1978. Seated — Ralph and Isabel Steinhauer; Standing — L to R, Kenneth, June, Kathleen, Doreen, Muriel.

the winter. This store was the hub of business activity in the town. Besides the post office, the central telephone was located there, and the staff also acted for the grain companies, cashing grain tickets for the farmers. Ralph had learned to speak Ukrainian while attending school at Stry and this was a great help in his work in Vilna. He was often asked by the early settlers in the area to read and explain business letters written in English and also to write replies.

For several fall seasons Ralph travelled to other areas to take part in harvest work. One fall he went to Southern Saskatchewan but other years he went a few miles south of the North Saskatchewan River with a team and wagon and would work for about six weeks. During the late fall of 1927, after returning from harvest work near Vegreville, he met Isabel Davidson, a young teacher who had arrived in Vilna in August to teach the primary grades in the two-roomed school. Isabel was born in Buffalo, N.Y. December 22, 1905 and arrived in Edmonton, Alberta with her mother in May 1921. She finished her high school there, then took a business course and went to work in a bank in Provost, Alberta. She attended Camrose Normal School 1926-27 and went from there to Vilna.

Ralph and Isabel were married November 1928. They lived with his parents on the farm at Cache Lake that first winter. Ralph spent two months at a lumber camp north of Goodfish Lake Reserve making lumber to build a house. The spring of 1929 they moved to their own farm on the south side of the reserve bordering on the Champlain district. They lived that summer in a tent and grainary near the fields which Ralph had broken in 1927 and 1928. During the summer, with the help of his Dad and his uncle, a two-roomed house was built on the south side of the section, near the district road which bordered the reserve. While still living in the tent, their first daughter Muriel, was born.

That summer was very dry and the wheat yielded seven bushels per acre. In addition to low yield, the market prices dropped and the Steinhauers had their first taste of depression. The new house was not ready for the cold weather so another winter was spent with the parents at the Cache Lake farm on the north side of the reserve.

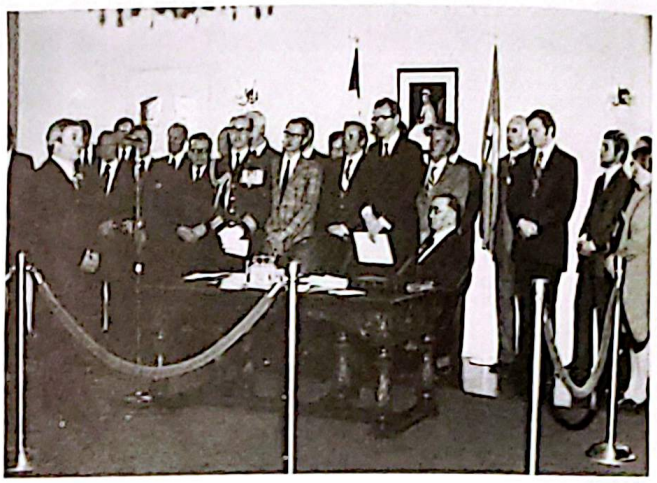
Ralph spent part of the winter at the logging camp making lumber, most of which was sold to obtain money for living expenses. Spring of 1930 saw the little family back in their house and from then on it was home for many years.

Water was a problem — it had to be hauled by team and wagon either from the creek two and one-half miles away or from a neighbor's well two miles away. So an arrangement was made to have a well-boring machine come and bore a well. After two dry holes another location was found and a good well resulted. The next spring, May 1931, the second daughter, Doreen was born. May 1932 the third daughter, Kathleen was born. That fall the house was moved one-quarter mile east to be near the new well and the days of hauling water by team to the house were over. Another notable happening that year was Ralph's election to Saddle Lake Band Council. This commenced many years of work and involvement with band affairs.

There were many happy years of work and play with the good neighbors on the reserve and outside in the Champlain-Brosseau District. Neighbors helped each other with grain cleaning, wood sawing and other similar chores. There were many happy evenings visiting during the winters and gatherings at picnics and weddings during the summers. Looking back it seems there were many hardships during the early years and through the depression of the thirties, but at the time it was all part of everyday living.

Ralph's brother, Herbert Steinhauer, broke land on the section east and they farmed together for some years. The fourth daughter, June, was born in 1937 and that year the three older girls left to attend the Edmonton Indian Residential School. Muriel had attended Champlain School for two years but there wasn't room for a second Indian pupil, hence their enrollment at the Edmonton school where they stayed for three years.

One of the big summer attractions for people of all the surrounding districts was the Saddle Lake Treaty celebrations, held in July when the Indian Affairs staff paid out $5.00 treaty money to every man, woman and child on the reserve. The Indians gathered near the band hall for a week-long stay. Many people from outside the reserve came also to set up their tents and join in the festivities. The grounds were white with hundreds of tents — it was quite a sight. There was a parade of Indians in native dress, a baseball tournament, horse races, foot races, Indian hand games, pow-wow dancing every evening round a campfire on an open grassy space and old time dancing in the hall at night. There were numerous booths on the grounds selling hot dogs, coffee, soft drinks, icecream, etc. The Steinhauers operated a concession there for about ten years, till the farming operation became too large to permit the time. Treaty was a big event for many families. Most people travelled by team during the years of depression. They came to visit with friends they might see only on that one occasion each year, as much as to view the different events. As times improved and more people obtained cars the camping dwindled. The crowds came for day-long outings instead of week-long camping.



Just after swearing in new cabinet ministers following election — 1975.

Ralph Steinhauer, Lieutenant Governor Reading "Speech from the Throne" — 1976.

Ralph Steinhauer, Lieutenant Governor Reading "Speech from the Throne" — 1977.

The Steinhauer's three girls came home from the Edmonton school in 1940, the first year of World War II. Their mother taught them for two years then they attended the Duclos school at Bonnyville. The 1940's saw the Steinhauer farm start an expansion which was to continue for several years. A large acreage was broken by John Chrapko with his caterpillar tractor and, during the war while Herbert was in the airforce, Ralph operated both farms. Son Kenneth was born in 1945, the year the war ended. He attended Champlain School for two years then joined the others on the bus to attend school in Two Hills.

The farmers of the Champlain district formed a local of the Alberta Farm Union and Ralph was an active member. After the amalgamation in 1949 with the U.F.A. to form the F.U.A. Ralph was district president for two years. Toward the beginning of the 1950's Ralph helped to organize the Champlain R.E.A. and in 1954 electricity came to the farms of Champlain and Brosseau. By 1960 he was helping to organize the Brosseau Mutual Telephone Association. In 1963 the telephones were installed just in time to be of use in the federal election campaign of that year. Ralph was persuaded to run as a Liberal candidate in a year when only a Conservative had a chance of winning. The campaign was a disaster politically, but gave Ralph a great deal of experience in public life. He was a member of the Centennial Conference from 1964 to 1967 and travelled to different parts of the country in that capacity. The year 1967 also saw his appointment to the Order of Canada and in 1972 he became an officer of the Order.

In 1966 he was elected chief of Saddle Lake Band. At the end of his term 1969, he retired from Saddle Lake politics. He then joined the Indian Association staff, set up Alberta Indian Development Systems (A.I.D.S.) and worked with them for four years, retiring in 1973. October 1973 he was appointed to the Northern Alberta Development Council, but he was obliged to resign in 1974 when he was appointed Alberta's tenth Lieutenant Governor, which brought five years of very active public life.

Isabel was also active in both communities, serving as District Director of F.W.U.A. for two years, and working with the Two Hills United Church Women for quite a few years. At Saddle Lake Isabel worked part time as secretary at the Health Centre for seven years. At the same time she was also a member and secretary of the Saddle Lake School Committee till 1974.

Muriel Manywounds — teacher, lives at Sarcee Reserve, has taught school in Calgary for years — has four children, two married, one grandchild.

Doreen Oke — Psychiatric nurse, Special Education teacher, married David Oke, both teach in Toronto, Ont., have a farm at Peterborough, Ont. — three children.

Kathleen Anderson — Public Health Nurse, married Gilbert Anderson, four children.

June Chisan — Secretary, works at Two Hills Chemical Plant, married Vern Chisan, farm near Brosseau, four children, one married, four grandchildren.

Kenneth — High School in Two Hills, works for City of Edmonton, married Hazel Erasmus, one child.

This makes a total of sixteen grandchildren and five great-grandchildren for Ralph and Isabel.

SERNA AND ELKOW

by Emily Serna

In 1905, Mike Elkow came to Canada from Nazina, Austria with her parents, Peter and Mary. They arrived at Montreal by ship and later came to Alberta.

In 1902, Mary Mandrusiak came to Canada with her parents, John and Helen. They also came from Nazina, Austria. They also arrived at Montreal by ship and after a few weeks in Montreal settled in Wostock, Alberta. They lived for 4 years here and then homesteaded 4 miles south of Musidora. Mike and Mary were married June 10, 1921. They had seven children. Annie and Pearl which have deceased. Mary, married to Mac Paulichuk; Helen married to Nick Kupchenko; Emily married to Steve Serna; Benny married to Olga Ewanishan; and Olga married to Edward Syniuga. Mike Elkow operated a store in Musidora; the stone structure which still stands.

In 1913, John Serna came to Canada with his parents, George and Helen from Bokovina, Ukraine. They settled in the Bellis area and homesteaded on a farm north of Two Hills. In 1924, John married Mary Dometraschuk who was born in Canada. They had five children. Rose married to William Chomyc; Steve married to Emily Elkow; Victor married to Lily Gordey; Allan married to Sylvia Sekora; and Mary Anne married to Jerry Romaniuk.

Steve obtained his education in Two Hills. Emily obtained her education at the Franko school, Musidora, and Two Hills. Steve and Emily were married on June 21, 1951, and have six children. Rosemarie, who is married to Constable Gary Muzechka and together have two boys; Micheal and Christopher. Linda is a registered nurse and is presently working at Mundare Hospital. Lorraine is presently working for Alberta Transportation in Edmonton. Sharon is married to Gordon Trach and are living on a farm in Thorhild. They have one girl; Lisa. Lorna is attending Two Hills High. Dennis is also attending High School in Two Hills. Steve and Emily have three grandchildren.

At the present time, Steve is the chairman of the Two Hills Hospital and Nursing Home. He is also the president of the Rannach Community Pasture and the Szypenitz R.E.A.

Emily took her Registered Nursing Assistant training in Calgary Vocational School and during her training was posted at various hospitals. She worked for ten years in Two Hills and is presently working part time at Myrnam Hospital.

Steve and Emily own a farm 4 miles north of Two Hills and are mixed farming.

THE FIRST TWO HILLS STORE AND LIFE OF OWNER FRED SHOFF

by Gertrude Thompson

Fred Shoff was born in Ontario and left school at an early age. Outdoor life always was appealing to him and he always had a strong sense for adventure, so he slipped across the American border and never stopped till he reached the Rio Grande in southern Texas. Texas in those days was just what the young Canadian was looking for. He got himself a light covered wagon, pulled by a team of mules, a good saddle horse and three fast wolf hounds. He found the ranchers glad to have him camp on their range to hunt coyotes, wolves and bobcats. There was a bounty paid for the destruction of these animals, plus a few dollars for the prime furs that he could exchange at the fur buying stores for groceries and other necessities of life. Quite often he would camp at some out of the way trading post relaxing, till the urge came to move on some more.

After the mid nineties he decided he would go to see the north western states. He started out with no time limit to see, Arkansa, Oklahoma and several other states, camping whenever night over took him and moving on when he felt like it. Finally travelling through eastern Idaho and the Walla Walla Washington territory. The country west of Yellowstone, around the crator of the moon, was having frequent earthquake up-heavels at the time and he had described the country so clearly to me, that a few years ago I happened to pass through that country and I found it exactly as he had described it to me at the time.

From Walla Walla he finally reached Seattle where he disposed of his outfit and travelled the seas for a short time. He said there was only one thing in the Pacific that stuck in his mind and that was the snow covered peak of Mt. Fugiyama, rising into the clear sky out of a cloud bank that hid the land of Japan.

The Gold rush of 1898 found him in Skagway Alaska, on his way to the Klondike. He survived the deadly trail of 98 and finally reached the Gold Fields. After the strenuous life of the north, without finding his fourtune, he decided to go south and look for a quiet place to settle. He reached Edmonton and rented a place not far from Fort Saskatchewan. Then he decided that he should go on his own. Shortly after the turn of the century he took up homestead at two miles west of the present town of Two Hills, on Section 35-54-13-W4th. Settlers had to travel to Vegreville to get their supplies, some twenty miles away. As oxens were still in use amongst the settlers at that time it meant a two or three day drive to the closest store, so Fred decided to open a general store on the north side of the Vermillion Lake.

When Mr. Shoff located there he intended to raise livestock, swine and horses to sell to the new settlers. His idea was very sound and his business increased by leaps and bounds.

He brought in a good Registered Stallion and crossed him with his farm mares and produced a very good type of all round farm horse, though in later years he turned to producing only pure bred Clydesdale horses. he also raised pure bred Berkshire hogs. By this time he had acquired the agency for the International Harvester Farm Implements. He was so busy that he took a partner, a young school teacher by the name of James Bleakly, who had just came from Ireland with his wife and young daughter. James got himself a house for his family and used one room for an office. He looked after the Implement Business and his wife looked after the books and helped in the store. It left Fred to put more time around his stock which he loved.

When the war broke out in 1914, the two partners were doing a wonderful business and had branched out into dealing in farm lands. This went on for a couple years and then tragedy struck. Mrs. Bleakly died and so did their daughter. Jim was badly shaken and went into Vegreville to join the Canadian Army. He was sent overseas shortly afterwards and was killed in action in France.

Fred never did take any other partner. He depended more on hired help. Maybe I should describe the store itself and the people who dealt there. After visiting the town of Two Hills today with its modern shopping center, hospitals and schools with every modern convenience, the days of seventy five years ago make those far off days seem like a different world altogether.

The store itself was a large building, with a lean-to, which served as a warehouse for his implement parts and bulky pieces of hardware and dried goods. The store had a counter running nearly the full length of the building. On this counter was the big hand operated coffee grinder; also the cheese cutter with the big cheese brick on it, and last but not least, the store scale where bulk goods were carefully weighed. At the other end of the counter was a thirty pound pail of assorted and different coloured hard candy, also an open caddy of McDonalds chewing tobacco and one open case of T & B pipe tobacco in plugs. Cigars were also kept in stock, but very few factories made cigarettes. Instead there were cotten pouches of Old Chum Fine cut and Bull Durum cigarette tobacco and Zig Zag cigarette paper. These were usually hung on the wall in little bundles.

In front of the counter there usually was a large open gunny sack of peanuts, an open barrel of soda crackers and often an open ten gallon barrel of salt pickled herring. Back of the counter the wall was shelved to the ceiling and filled with dry goods. Bolts of cotton prints, flanelette, denim and other cloth that woman bought by the yard and later sewed into clothing for their families. The ceiling rafters were hung with bundles of smoked tanned Indian Moccasins, jackets and gloves which was traded with the Indians for other supplies. Other mens footwear, harness parts, horse collars and a whole assortment of other articles hung from these rafters. It was amazing the amount of goods that were under the roof of this old country store.

The prices of those far off days were also much different than the prices of today on most articles. While

canned goods and general groceries were much cheaper, the really big difference was in dry goods, clothing, tobacco & hardware. Plug tobacco was ten cents for a quarter pound. Groceries were at least one quarter the price of today. Mens shoes sold for $1.25 per pair and it was real leather, no such thing as imitations then. Mens work shirts at two for one dollar and a quarter. Men's tweed suits of good quality was around $15.00. overalls for men sold were priced from $1.00 to $1.50, depending on the material. Jackets to match were about the same price. Clothing material by the yard was twenty five cents a yard. Ammunition, which was an important item in keeping meat on the table for many a struggling settler was 20 cents a box of fifty, for 22 shells and 45 cents for shot gun shells. Even at that low price many an old timer insisted on the necessary powder and shots to load their own shot gun shells. I don't know what proportion of powder and shot they used for reloading their shells, but I do know that many would-be hunters were in for a big surprise, when they fired one of these reloaded shells with too much powder in it. The recoil was terrific. One wonders how these old shotguns held together after such a blast.

Money was scarce in those days and luxuries could seldom be indulged in. It was a real event in the lives of the children when they were allowed to accompany their parents to the store. Once inside every pair of small eyes were riveted on the open peanut bag or candy pail. After a small period of suspence Mr. Shoff would reach in the candy pail and give each boy or girl a treat, and when the groceries were packed there was sure to be a sack of candies and peanuts for the kids who were left at home. It's hard for the children of today to imagine the appreciation these children had for these treats that was given to them with their groceries.

When one first entered a store, he was struck by the unique aroma that greeted his nostrils. In fact the blending of all these different odours created an atmosphere that was far from unpleasant, but to a small boy or girl, the smell of the country store was the finest smell in the world never to be forgotten.

The early settlers were often in difficulties financially. Many a young man started up in farming, was helped get his first much needed machinery or a start in livestock by Mr. Shoff, and their families kept in groceries while some crop was harvested,and brought to market.

Mr. Fred Shoff was not a tall man, though quite solid in build, but he was not fat. He wore a full beard and on him it looked good. He wore a large black stetson hat, a buck-skin coat and Indian moccasins. Though in cold winter weather he laid his stetson aside and replaced it with a heavy knitted woollen cap. Being very bald he said he did not want his head to get chilled. He did not do much hunting, though he was a deadly shot with rifle, revolver or shotgun. His favourite sport in winter was when the lakes froze over. Then he liked nothing better than turning his hounds loose after any coyote which ventured out on the ice. Fred never married but he always had a warm spot in his heart for children and had a keen interest in young people. He had a wonderful sense of humor and a dry wit that could be very keen at times.

In the mid-twenties he finally sold his store to Nicolai Olenyk of Kaleland, who moved it to the correction line, half a mile north of the original site. The old store had stood on a branch of the old Battleford Trail and the freight trail to the St. Paul and Cold Lake area. But now the old trail was all fenced off and the north east was served by a railroad.

When the C.P.R., came through to Two Hills in 1927, Mr. Shoff was raising horses, hogs, and grain. He still kept his pets which were an assortment of cats, fowl and hounds. He hired men to do his farming, and his health was not too good.

In the later years I spent many very enjoyable evenings with the old gentleman. He would draw his old home made arm chair up to the wood burning stove and reminisce by the hour. He would talk about his father who was a famous deer hunter, who was once to guide a young English officer and his party out on a deer hunt in the wilds of northen Ontario. This party was visiting from England and had a very successful hunt, thanks to the guide. Later the same officer was killed in the Crimean War Leading the charge of the famous Light Brigade.

Then he would talk about the Yukon and the hard times he had on some of those frozen Artic trails. After graphically describing these hardships and the deadly cold of the far north, the old man would be quiet for a few minutes. Then he would be back home in his beloved Texas. He would tell of crossing great plains when water was short and the sun fairly cooked the flesh on your bones, and of bones strewn along the trails of the horses and cattle which had perished from lack of water and food. Then he would be back in the Texas panhandle. He had so much in common with the Texans of that day, that I believe that to the day he died he considered Texas his true home.

Few men as ever done more for their district, and he will always be remembered by any one who knew him. Today the descendents of these pioneers are successful farmers and business men, while many have succeeded in other professions. But there are still a few old pensioners who have kindly and grateful memories of the little man in the big black Stetson hat and buckskin coat, with a big heart as big as his beloved Texas. He quietly passed away in 1931 and was buried in the Vegreville Cemetary.

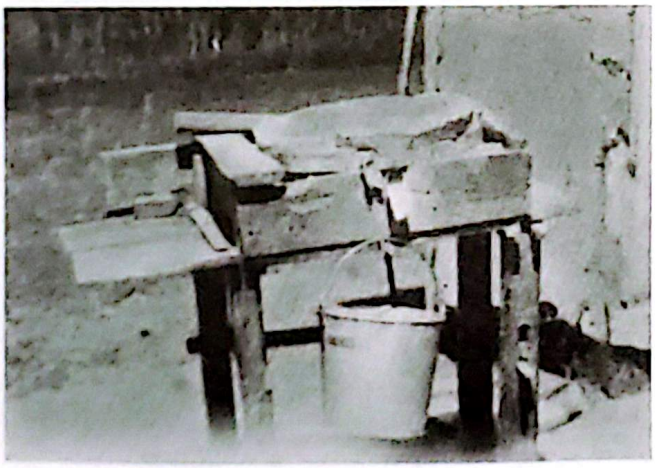
MR. AND MRS. MAFTAY SHERSTIANKA

by daughter Rose Ford

My Mother and Dad were married February 14, 1902 in Bukovina, Austria in a little village called Mamaestic. They and Mother's parents, Nickolai and Yerena Taschuk, and two sons, Peter and Alec, came to Canada in 1902. They landed in Edmonton. From there

Grandfather and Grandmother Sherstianka in front of their home built in 1905.

Mr. and Mrs. Maftay Sherstianka and from L to R: Rita, Lucille, Stella, Jean, Mona, Rose and Mary.



Grandfather Sherstianka's flour mill (1905).

they went to Bellis to homestead. They travelled by wagon loaded with their few possessions and the women. The men walked behind most of the time, following rutted trails. After two years my Dad's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dmetro and Elizabeth Sherstianka, came to join the family.

When the surveyors came, they discovered that two families had filed on the same quarter, so Dad and all the relatives decided to move on. The men landed at Brosseau and homesteaded in the same area in 1905. S½ 6-56-11-W4, W½ 5-56-11-W4, NW¼ 32-55-11-W4.

Then they went back to Bellis, built a big raft from planks they caught on the river and brought their families and belongings on the river to Brosseau. They encountered a bear but he decided to swim in another direction. The only weapon they had for protection was an axe.

The men returned to Bellis to get their wagon (completely wooden made by themselves). It was drawn by two oxen. They loaded their remaining possessions and drove their two cows and calves.

Mr. Maftay Sherstianka's four sons. From left to right Peter, Nick, Metro and Alex.

Grandfather and Grandmother Sherstianka.

They began farming in 1905. Dad built a hut of wood and fresh hay for their first house. Then later they built another in the side of a hill where they lived for ten years. Later they built a log house large enough for the ever increasing family (1912).

Mother and Dad raised four boys and seven girls. They worked hard and faithfully, battling through some very hard times. They continually struggled to get ahead and reached the place where in 1927 they owned 800 acres of land and their own machinery etc.

They were forever grateful to the Brosseau's who often gave help in their dire need. When they couldn't

Mr. and Mrs. Mafty Sherstianka and their family in 1925.

buy groceries, Alphonse Brosseau allowed Dad to charge them and so helped to feed the family.

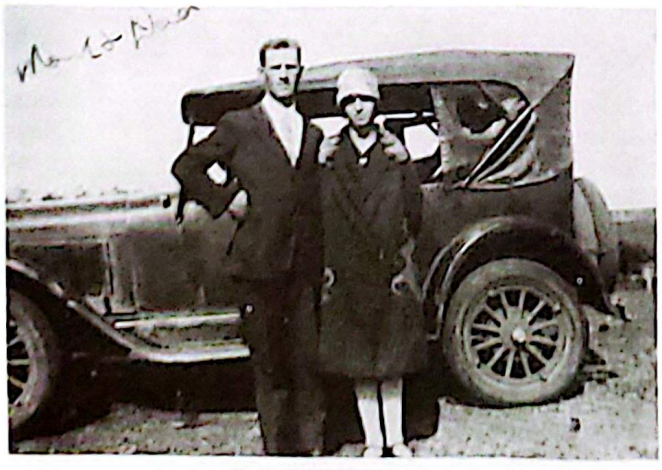
Mother and Dad were a very kind and generous couple. They showed great hospitality towards any who needed it. They lodged them, fed them and usually sent something along with them. Their whole aim in life was to please their Lord and Maker.

In 1952 they retired and moved to Edmonton. Dad died in 1961 and Mother in 1965. Two brothers, Nick and Peter, have also gone home "to be with the Lord."

MR. AND MRS. METRO SHERSTAN

by Frieda Sherstan

Metro was born on April 20,1904 near Bellis, Alberta. When Metro was a year old his parents Mafty and Anna Sherstan had discovered there were two people that filed on one quarter of land. In 1905, Metro, his brother Nick and their parents moved to Brosseau, where he grew up and he knew what hard work was.



Mr. and Mrs. Metro Sherstan with their pride of the year, a 1926 Chev, taken in 1929.

Metro attended the Mamaestie School. He got his education and graduated from grade one when he was eleven years old. There was no time for school in those days, only work. As he grew up into a handsome young man he was thinking about settling on the farm. So he bought a quarter of land east of Brosseau S.W. Sec. 5-56-11-W5. From then on he worked hard to pay up the land and then in time to build a house. That didn't satisfy him, so he started looking for a mate. In 1927, he decided that he had to venture out. So he went to Glendon and met a young girl, Frieda (nee Eluik). It was love at first sight, and on November 6, 1927 they were happily married. Mr. and Mrs. Sherstan were blessed with one son and five daughters. They both worked hard to bring up their children to love the Lord.

Metro Sherstan spring time 1940. Time to put in the crop.

Alex Sherstan riding a two wheel cart driving the eight horse team while his brother Metro operated the 22-inch breaking plow.

Our first home was built of logs on the home quarter. It had three rooms; a kitchen, our bedroom and the whole upstairs for the children and whoever came by. A wood stove was our source of heating and coal was not introduced to the community till later. Later oil heaters became a luxury. We always had running water, because we wore running shoes and ran to the well with our buckets.

Electricity came into the area about 1954. Till that time we knew nothing of refrigeration. Our milk, cheese, butter and cream was kept cool by lowering it into the well in a big bucket. Meats were canned or salted. Cellars

Mr. and Mrs. Metro Sherstan at their 50th wedding anniversary. Bill Sherstan, his two boys to the right, his wife, to the left, Mom and Dad Sherstan. Marion and Jake Plett with the two girls and the two boys. Mell and Jack Rodiuk with their daughters in front of the boys. To Mell's right, Jean Folly and their family. To the right of Jean's family is Grace and Bob Erickson. To the right of Bob, Forence and her family (Danyluik).

Mr. and Mrs. Metro Sherstan's family taken in 1954.

Metro Sherstan doing custom work with his homemade grain loader in 1936, standing beside his most modern car.

were used for storing vegetables. Each year a big barrel of sauerkraut was put away for the long winters. Long rows of canned jams, fruit, berries, vegetables and chicken lined the shelves in the cellar. Every once in a while the aroma of MacIntosh apples came up as the cellar door was opened. They could be bought at a dollar a sack. Each year a special hog and beef were singled out and fattened up for many a festive meal.

Our children went to Mamaestie School. They all had their responsibilities and chores to do before and after school. Work on the farm was a "family affair". Christmas concerts were the highlight of the season. Children under the supervision of one teacher always put on a delightful performance. There were drama plays, songs, poems and a lot of good singing. Our children all went to Mamaestie School till busing came in for Two Hills. There education has taken them to various fields. Our son has his own service station business, two of the girls are nurses, one a Christian Ed director, one a missionary.

Our nearest medical facility was in St. Paul about 27 miles away. Since I drove a car we were often called on to help people who were sick. Home remedies were the norm. A chest cold called for the detested mustard plaster, a bad cough — red liniment and sugar, aches and pains — liniment, the old horse got sick he got liniment. An infected toe nail was soothed by hot milk and bread put on us. And good old castor oil was always a must.

I did all the sewing for the family. I made and remade from older clothes. This was dresses, coats, jackets, slacks and whatever.

A local wedding was always a community affair. We helped one another to prepare the wedding dinner for days in advance. There were roasters of chickens, rolls of sausage, pots of cabbage rolls, casseroles of "natchenka" (corn meal). The pies were lined up in rows like a bunch of smiling faces.

We farmed till 1965, then moved to Edmonton. In 1965 our oldest daughter lost her husband in a car accident. They were stationed in Germany as missionaries. He came home for his mother's funeral. Two days after the funeral he was in a car accident that also took his life as well as the life of his father, sister and her husband.

In September, 1971 our second youngest daughter went to work one morning as a real estate agent and never returned. In April we found her remains. The one responsible for her death has never been found. Her husband remarried and in February of 1978 his second wife was killed in a plane crash.

We have eleven grandchildren.

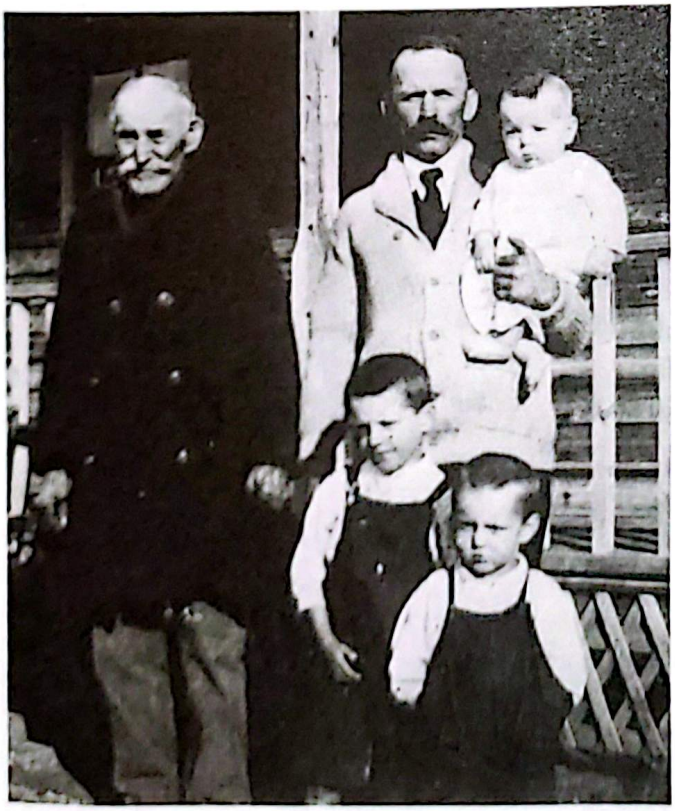
The center of our family life has been our conviction that Christ must come first in each life if we are to succeed.

STEVE SHERSTIANKA

by Rose Fedoruk

In 1898, Veronica Palamaruk, aged 7 years old, arrived from Bukovenitz with her parents, Alex and Angela Palamaruk and their five other children, Domka, Peraska, Annie, John, Bill and Alex. They settled in the Wostok area and later moved to the Rannock district. (Bill died in B.C., John lives in Edmonton and Alex has had a barber shop in Two Hills for many years.)

Back row Steve Sherstianka, Mona, Agnes, Annie, Front row Vernie, Rosie, Veronica and baby Mary.

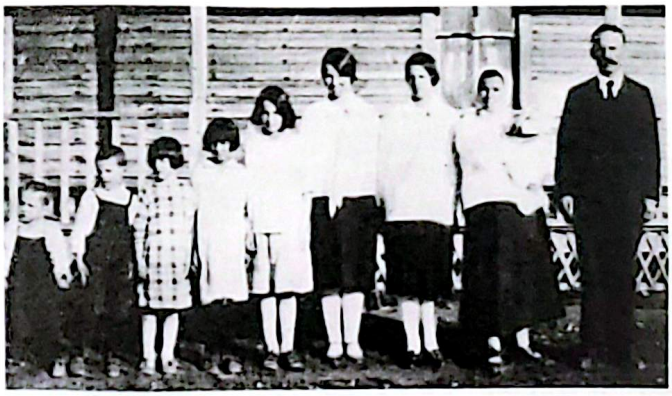


(L. to R.) — Metro Sherstianka and son, Steven, holding his son, Nick with Steve and William, in front of their house on the farm in 1929.

Church at Steve Sherstianka and the group at the church service, Evangelical Church, Mr. Sherstianka's House.

In 1903 Metro and Elizabeth Sherstianka and their son Maftai, arrived from Bukovenitz and took a homestead in Brosseau, NW¼ 32-55-12 W4. The next year their other son aged 17, Steven, arrived in Canada to join them.

He started as a farm labourer and worked for the Palamaruk family where he met their daughter, Veronica. They were married in 1909 and settled on SE¼ 6-56-12 W4. There, Steven worked the land with oxen. Veronica would lead them whilst Steven held the plow handles. They also built a house that would serve as a gathering place for Sunday Service, because Steven had become an Evangelical Minister.



(L. to R.) — William, Steve, Mary, Rose Vernie, Annie, Agnes. Mrs. Veronica holding baby Nick, and Steven Sherstianka in 1929 in front of their home in Brosseau.

Steven died in June 1952. Veronica, at 88 years of age, is still living in Edmonton, but she spends a lot of time in hospitals.

Steven and Veronica were blessed with 10 children:

December 4, 1910 — Agnes — married Jack Spelley from Vernon B.C., raised two boys, is widowed and still resides there.

June 14, 1912 — Annie — married Bill Kryzanowski from Glendon, Alberta, raised 5 children, as a widow now lives in Edmonton.

Mr. & Mrs. Steve Sherstianka with son Mike, getting ready to go to Two Hills in winter of 1938.

September 14, 1914 — Mona — married Don Ware from U.S.A., now lives in Vancouver.
December 28, 1917 — Vernie — married Paul Bonko of Evansburg. They raised 9 children, reside in Edmonton.
March 1, 1922 — Mary — married Mike Jacura of Foisy, raised 5 children, and now reside in St. Paul.
April 18, 1924 — Steve — married Mary Hochachka, raised 4 children, reside in Vegreville.
August 16, 1926 — William — married Denise ?, raised 2 children and reside in Edmonton.
March 14, 1929 — Nick — married Marge ?. They raised 3 children and live in Edmonton.
February 9, 1932 — Mike — married Rosanna ?, have 3 children and live in Edmonton.
Rose married Andrew Fedoruk.

SAM SHERSTIANKA

by Myrtle Sherstianka

Sam, son of Peter and Domka Sherstianka, was born July 15, 1931 at home in Brosseau. He was educated at Mamaestie School and Two Hills High School from 1937-1949, graduating from Grade 12.

Sam's first employment was in a lumberyard in Vegreville, Alberta and he helped his father on the farm.

Left to Right; Mr. & Mrs. Sam Sherstianka, Denise, Alison, Samantha, Michele, Jacalyn taken in 1974.

In 1952 he went to work for Casault's construction which was building the Western Chemicals Ltd. plant in Duvernay, and was one of the first to be employed by the firm, when it began its operation in 1953. He was mainly in the Brine Building.

On November 26, 1955 Sam married Myrtle Skinner who was born in Stratford, Ontario, on July 28, 1935. She attended school there. Then she graduted as a Registered Nuring Attendant in Calgary in 1955. She came to work in Two Hills Hospital, met Sam and they were married.

They settled on the farm, NE¼ 31-55-12-W4th. He continued to work at the plant while farming, as a side job. He was among the group of men to be honored as 20-year employees at the Christmas Plant party in December 1973. In January 1974, having been stricken by Cancer, Sam had to give up working. He passed away on August 17, 1975 and was buried in the Arden Evangelical Cemetery of Brosseau.

Myrtle continued to farm for one year. Then she rented the land and moved to Edmonton where she is a saleslady for World Book and Childcraft of Canada.

Sam and Myrtle had five daughters: Denise (September 8, 1959); Jacalyn (September 23, 1963); Alison (February 27, 1965); Michele (July 13, 1968); Samantha (June 6, 1973).

PETER & DOMKA SHERSTIANKO'S

Peter Sherstianko was born in Kiev, Austria on July 12, 1889. Born to William Sherstianko & Irene Demchuk. Peter came to Canada at the age of 21, 1910. He worked as a farm laborer, until 1916 when he married Domka Severyn in Ispas in 1916. She being the daughter of Meketa Severyn and Wasylena Sowchuk, born on July 26, 1900. They farmed at Lake Bellview from 1916 to 1927 when they with their five children Elizabeth (Mrs. Mike Plaska) George, Anne, (Mrs. Paul Archinuk) and Marie (Mrs. Peter Petecki), Metro who passed away May 1958, moved to Brosseau.

Peter standing, Josephine, Mrs. Harry Gartke (left hand side) Rose, Mrs Frank Taylor (right hand side) Mike beside his mother and Lillian, (Mrs George Sherstianka) beside dad. John and Mary Marianych taken in 1950.

While farming at Brosseau Jennie (died at the age of 2 years) John and Sam died in 1975, Jean (Mrs. Nick Ostashuk) and Lillian (Mrs. Ron Labrenz) were born. They farmed until 1957 when they moved to Two Hills. Peter passed away in 1968.

GEORGE SHERSTIANKA

George is the eldest son who was born to Peter and Domka Sherstianka in the year of 1919 where they lived at Lac Belleview. His parents moved to the Brosseau district where he grew up and attended the Mamiestie School.

After he finished school he stooked for farmers in the surrounding areas. Later he bought a light delivery truck with which he picked up cream from the farmers and

In 1941 he moved to Two Hills a little village 12 miles from his farm home. He then got the job hauling gas from the B.A. Bulk Station. The agent was John Kolisniak.

George and Lillian Sherstianka with their two children Edith and Dwayne in 1955.

In 1946 he married the youngest daughter Lillian of John and Mary Marionich who lived 4 miles S.E. of Two Hills.

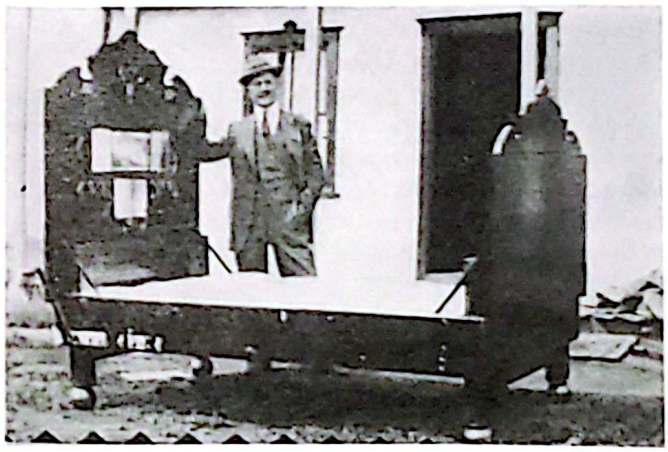
George and Lillian have one daughter Edith Grace born to them on March 20, 1951 in Two Hills. In 1951 George moved with his family to Edmonton and continued trucking for Trible and Sons Ltd. till 1962.

A son was born in Edmonton, Dwayne on July 8, 1954. In 1963-1965 he was salesman for Investors Syndicate and in 1968 decided to be salesman for Jenner Motors. In 1969 he bought into Concrete Drainage Company and in 1972 went back to selling cars for Western G.M.C. and is now semi retired.

JOHN AND MARY MARIANYCH

Mary Marianych born on July 12, 1885 in the Village of Zawaly County Snotin Calichina in 1903. Mary's parents John and Irene Odynski came to Canada with their children and with them came John Marianych. They settled in the area south of Andrew at tht time called Beaver Creek. In 1904 Mary and John were married and settled on a farm in Two Hills quarter Sec. 22 - Tshp. 54 Range 12 W of 4. In 1910 fire destroyed all his buildings.

Mr. and Mrs. John Marianych and table he designed and built, which could be converted into a double size bed.



Many friends and relatives settled around them of whom you'll be reading about. Here they established their home where 8 children, 4 girls, 4 boys were born to them.

In 1911 their first son Metro was born and died at the age of 7 years, Maria who died at the age of five and another boy died in infancy. The rest all living are: Peter, Josephine married Harry Gartke, Rose married Frank Taylor, Mike, Lillian married George Sherstianka.

John was gifted in carpentry. He designed and made a table which could be converted into a double bed. He also built a coach which was drawn by two horses which was entered in Two Hills parade in 1935. He was also noted for his lovely hand writing.

In 1935 they retired and moved to the city of Edmonton, leaving their youngest son to manage the farm. John predesead his wife by seven years and 5 months, Jan. 20, 1963.

Mary Marianych then lived with her youngest daughter Lillian Sherstianka until 1969 where she suffered a stroke and passed away June 4, 1970.

Mr. and Mrs. John Marianych Wedding picture 1904.

PETER SKAKUN

by Metro Chrapko

Peter Skakun was born in 1901 to Andronik (Andrew) and Martha Skakun (nee Arychuk) at Shepenitz, Bukowina, Ukraine.

After his parents moved to the homestead on the SW ¼-36-55-11-W4th, Peter went to school at Luzan for three years until he reached 16 years of age, then left for the mines in Drumheller where he joined his older brother Metro. He worked in the mines and at other jobs in Southern Alberta until 1925. That year he purchased the SE ¼-19-56-11-W4th near Foisy.

In 1927 Peter married Anna Odinsky, daughter of John and Irene Odinsky (nee Lakusta) from Laniuk, about one mile south and two miles east of Two Hills. Anna recalls "we started farming with almost nothing. The land was all bush. We cleared it little by little, plowing some with the breaking plow and horses. We hired Metro Pawliuk to break the rest of the land with a tractor. It wasn't easy as the stumps were so big they had to split them with a pick and axe".

Peter returned to mining during the winter months between 1927-1929 to pay for the farm.

Anna continues "We had four children, Ernest, Edward, Marian and Norma. Then in the 30's the depression hit. It was the hardest time for everybody, but we had lots to eat as we raised all the vegetables and all of the other things to eat. It was all healthy and fresh food. We went berry picking as far as 50 miles away with our T Ford and picked pails of blueberries and cranberries. It was fun picking them. We had bushels of saskatoons on our farm. We made all kinds of fruit and jams and didn't have to buy any.

Peter, Metro Skakun and Mike Yeremichuk about 1920.

Back row L. to R. — John Chrapko, Adam and Bill Skakun. Center — Edward, Peter, Ernest, Anna Skakun and Nick Logozar. Bottom — Martha Skakun, Peter and Maggie Logozar, Eva and Clara Chrapko, Jennie and Olga Logozar about 1918.

Andronik and Martha Skakun's family. Top L. to R. — Peter and Metro. Center — Andonik, Bill, Martha, Jennie and Eva. Bottom — Nick and Adam. (1918).

Our nearest town was 23 miles away, St. Paul. The farmers had to take their grain with a team of horses. That was hard on people and the horses, especially in the winter time. When the railroad track went through Two

Mr. & Mrs. Peter Skakun.

Hills, the town was built. That was our nearest town then. The worst of it was that we had to cross the river on a ferry. Sometimes it took half an hour before your turn came. They couldn't take more than two loads on it. It was very slow moving. In 1931, the bridge was built and it was free travelling. The closest school was 4 miles away — Champlain. The children had to walk to school. In the winter they rode with the horse and cutter. We farmed in Foisy until 1948, then we moved to Edmonton. It was a very successful move. We farmed there until 1968 when Peter died of cancer.

It is very sad that all the Foisy pioneers are gone".

The family also recalls some of the good times when they were at Foisy and remember that Peter had the first Model A touring Ford in the district. The one you had to pull a lever to put in reverse and had curtains in the windows.

Peter was community minded and helped build the Foisy Hall. He also helped organize the Ukrainian concerts with his brothers-in-law, John Chrapko and Nick Logozar. Peter knew how to read music and taught the choral group singing and played the mandolin. Anna, a very talented artist in her own right acted in the plays, played mandolin and sang. She later learned to pick guitar and one would really have to hear Anna and her twin sister Styra harmonize both in voice and with musical instruments to appreciate it. It was spine tingling.

They would travel throughout the area on their concert tours. At times they would invite other concert troupes from Edmonton and the family recalls some of the actresses billeting at Peter's and Anna's. Bazaars were another way funds were raised to pay for the building and operating of Foisy Hall. Anna would donate her finest baking for sale at these bazaars.

Many will recall stabling their horses at Peters on cold winter evenings, then walking the one mile to the dance or the baseball tournaments, picnics they were called-on Frank Smith's farm just west of Foisy Hall.

About 1939 Peter became a school trustee for Champlain and held the position for approximately four years. About 1941 he purchased more land the SW 30-56-11-W4th and in 1948 they sold and moved near Edmonton.

Anna now resides in the Meadowcroft Senior Citizen's Condominiums in Edmonton. Their children are all married and settled in Alberta.

Five generation of Skakuns. Extreme left Martha Skakun 85 years of age. Back row Great Grandaughter Nettie Melnychuk 25; Grandaughter Sopie Kruse 44, Front row Martha Skakun, Great, Great Grandaughter, Belind Melnychuk 5 years of age and daughter Mary Rosychuk age 65, taken in 1960.

Ernest married June Wekner in 1958. They live with their family, Allan, Rick, and Sally Anne in Peace River where Ernest owns Skip's Realty. Ernest got his musical talents from his parents and played in the district with Tenovoy, Galeta and Mandrusiaks bands.

Edward married Phyllis Kabage in 1978. He has four children, Brian, Dalyce, Edward and Janice from a former marriage to Francis Switlyk who he married in 1952. She passed away in 1978. Ed and Phyllis both are employed by the City of Edmonton, where they make their home. Ed still farms some of the land his parents purchased near Edmonton.

Brian has a son Jeremie and lives in Edmonton.

Dalyce is in England.

Edward lives and works in Edmonton.

Janice married Albert Deren and they live in Edmonton.

Mary Rosychuk (Skakun) about 1965.

Marian married Ronald McDonagh in 1953. They have five children, Linda, Darrell, Susan, Peggy and Nona and all live in Edmonton. Ronald is employed by the Great West Garment Factory. Marian and her younger sister, Norma enjoy music and entertain as their parents did.

Linda is married to Al Jenkins.

Norma married Edward Reinert in 1955 and reside with their two children Christopher and Kimberly in Edmonton. Her husband is employed by Dow Chemical Canada Ltd.

SOPHIE SKAKUN

by Metro Chrapko

Sophie Skakun was born in 1903 to Andronik and Martha Skakun (nee Arychuk) in Shepenitz, Bukowina, Ukraine. She was nine years old when she arrived in Canada with her parents and the rest of the family in 1912.

After her parents homesteaded the SW¼ 36-66-11-W4th near Luzan Sophie stayed on the farm helping her parents until 1918 when she married Sam Doonanco, son of Fred and Olga Doonanco. Their first homestead was near Flat Lake and Beacon Corner. The children recall it as Chicken Hills. In order to get started her husband went to earn money at the coal mines in Drumheller and New Castle. It was difficult for the young bride, but somehow she managed. A few years later, they moved and bought land at Redwater. Sophie stayed at her aunt's Mary Ewasiw and Sam continued to work at the mines and for the C.P.R.

They did very little if any farming at Redwater because the land turned out to be of poor quality. They decided to move to Edmonton and stayed there for several years while Sam worked out. Some time around the early 30's they decided to try their hand at farming again and moved to a homestead about 7 miles North-east of Bonnyville near Fort Kent.

Most of their children were born while they lived near Bonnyville. In all they had thirteen children. Eli and Dora who died as infants, Lucy, Metro (Mike), Vera, Leonard, Edelia, Willia, Ernest, Erma, Clara, Elsie, and Dennis.

Due to the distance and the dirt roads then, Sophie and her family were somewhat isolated at Bonnyville from the rest of the Skakun family. Some contact was maintained through letters or when Sam and others would come to sell sleigh loads of fish from "the North" in the Brosseau-Duvernay area. Despite what was considered a long distance then and the dirt roads, her brothers and sisters and their families who lived around the Brosseau, Foisy and Lafond districts tried to visit her family at least once a year. As children we were thrilled when our parents informed us that we were going to visit aunty Zonia (Sophie) and our cousins. An attempt was made to time the trip when it looked like it would not rain, then bright and early on a Sunday morning, about three car loads would head out. It was a joyful reunion and would end all too soon when evening approached and we had to head back.

A particular event that occurred during one of the trips to Bonnyville seems to stand out in memory. The road from Bonnyville to where Sophie lived, especially the last few miles was not much more than a trail between fence lines then, and there was one particularly bad spot where a meager road fill crossed a slough. This was usually where we got stuck. On this particular occassion, we were returning home and arrived at the spot to find that a cow had wandered off the fill into the slough and was mired down in the mud. She was almost totally exhausted from struggling to free herself. The adults went to her aid. At first some of the men rolled up their trousers and tried to push her out but the attempt was fruitless. They then searched for whatever rope or means was available in the cars so more could help in pulling the cow out but could not find enough. Then the women came to the rescue. It was customary then for the women to wrap their midriff with a wide decorative band of strongly woven material rather than use a girdle. While everyone looked "the other way", the women unravelled these bands from around themselves. These were then tied together to form a long tow line, then placed around the cow's neck. Everyone went into action, some pulled on the tow line, while others pushed and encouraged the cow from behind. Finally, with one big heave the animal came free and struggled onto the road. It stayed there for awhile, shaking from exhaustion, then slowly walked away.

Their farm at Bonnyville also proved to be a struggle. To top things off Sam left Sophie and the children in 1942. (He passed away in 1975.) Lucy, the eldest daughter had gone out to work and had married two years previously and Mike had gone to War the year before. Aid was not available then to the extent it is now. Sophie's back was against the wall, but she did not quit.

Sophie at marriage of first Grandchild Ian & Irene Hay (nee Twerdochlib).

Resolutely, she picked up the pieces and struggled on. As the children got older they worked out and helped as much as they could. The boys stayed on the farm and in the off season worked out to keep things going. Gradually progress was being made and things on the farm improved. Later they purchased more open land near LaCorey and moved there.

Sophie's health gradually failed and in October, 1977 she passed away. Sophie had her full measure and then some of misfortunes, suffering and heartache. Whatever burden she carried, when one met her, she would smile that perpetual smile and had a calm about her that seemed to express that no matter what the future had in store, she could cope because she had been through it before.

Lucy worked out as a young girl. It was while she was working at John and Eva Chrapko's that she met and married John Twerdoclib. The couple moved to his parents NW¼ 30-56-11-W4th to farm and where they still reside. Lucy and John have six children, Irene, Roger, Jim, David, Susan and Erwin.

Irene married Ian Hay. They live in Michigan, U.S.A. with their children, Scotty and Dianne.

Roger married Madeleine Jodwine. They live in Spruce Grove with their family, Karen, Kathy and Calvin.

Jim is married to Marsha Kupchenko and they live in St. Albert.

David married Marleine Looy. Their children, Corine, Tammy and Randy live with their parents in Edmonton.

Susan married Howard Christensen. They live in Edmonton with their children, Crista and Corry.

Erwin married Brenda Allison and they live in Edmonton.

Mike, after serving in World War II, where he was seriously wounded returned and shortly after became a salesman for Electrolux of Canada. He now manages the Electrolux shop in Camrose. Mike married Peggy Staley and they have six children, Gordon, Linda, Deborah, Judy, Michael and Rita.

Gordon married Linda Pruss and they have two sons, Samuel and Shawn. They live in Drayton Valley.

Linda married Wayne Ansell. They have two daughters, Angel and Erin and live in Airdrie.

Debbie is a dental assistant in Edmonton.

Judy is employed by Acklands at Cold Lake.

Michael is a welder at Cold Lake.

Rita is with her parents in Camrose where she attends school.

Vera left home as a girl and worked at various jobs, the AB Cafe for her uncle Adam Skakun at St. Paul, as a housekeeper and at the St. Paul Hospital to name but a few. It was while working at the hospital at St. Paul that she met and married Phillip Boisvert. Phil and his mother owned Phil's Taxi in Edmonton, then he worked in the Government buildings as a elevator operator. Phil died in 1968 and Vera, after a lengthy illness died in 1978. They had six children, Margaret-Rose, Evelyn, Barbara, Alex, Roderick and Bernadette.

Margaret Rose is married to Louis De Pagie and has one daughter, Darlene Langstaff. Her husband is a heavy duty mechanic for R. Angus and the family lives in Edmonton.

Evelyn married Rolland Prodoniuk, an architect. They live with their children, Zane, Anatole Prosper John (P.J.) and Melodie Vera Lee in Edmonton.

Barbara married Robert Prodoniuk, a brother of Roland. Robert is a teacher and cabinet maker. The have a daughter Dovina. Adlard, a son died as an infant.

Alex married Karen Simpson. The couple lives in Edmonton where Alex is transmission repairman.

Roderick is a plumber in Peace River.

Bernadette Married Richard Hermann. Bernadette is a seamstress and Richard is a self employed contractor. They have one daughter, Samantha and live in Edmonton.

Leonard, Sophie's second eldest son worked out most of the time and is now working in British Columbia.

Edelia left home at 15 years of age and also worked at various jobs before she married. She married Paul Noel at St. Paul. They are living in Lacombe where Paul is employed as a transmission mechanic. Edelia and Paul have six children, Sylvia, Phillip, Claire, Vivianne, Guy and Jule.

Sylvia married Jerry Cyr. they have one daughter Raylynn and live in Whitehorse, Yukon.

Phillip married Irene Dentinger. They have two children, Chantel and Louis Pierre and live in Sherwood Park.

Claire is married to Harold Goertzen and have one son, Shane. They live in Lacombe.

Vivianne married Robert Widdiefield. They have a daughter Nadine and live in Lacombe.

Guy and Jule are with their parents.

Willie operates his own business with Singer Company of Canada Ltd. He has shops at Grande Centre and St. Paul.

Ernest stayed on the farm at LaCorey and is a successful farmer there.

Erma has three children from a previous marriage, Shawna, Geffery, and Charles.

Clara married Gerald Frohlich. They have five children, Laurie, Christine, Leon, Clayton and Daniel. They live and farm at LaCorey.

Elsie married Jerry Neilson and has one son Bobby. They live in Calgary.

Dennis, the youngest of Sophie's family is working in British Columbia.

METRO SKAKUN

by Metro Chrapko

Metro Skakun was born October 1, 1898 to Andronik and Martha Skakun (nee Arychuk) in Shepenitz, Bukowina, Ukraine. He was 13 years when the family left the Ukraine for Canada.

L. to R. — Metro, Rosa, Fozina Skakun about 1939

Shortly after the family moved near Duvernay, Metro went to work in the coal mines at Drumheller at about age 15. Metro worked there and observed. He was impressed "how advanced" farming and industry was in Canada. At about age 22, never forgetting his beloved homeland and conditions that existed there, he wrote a note to his parents saying that he felt compelled to return to help develop the Ukraine. With only that note he left, never to return.

In the Ukraine, he married Frozina Kuruchka and settled in the southern part of the Ukraine. They had three children, Rosa, Hrysh (Harry), and Yuri (George).

During the military invasion of their farming village about 1944, he was removed by force from his family along with all the other men in the village and never returned. Shortly after this, his wife died.

Rosa, at the age of 14 was left alone to provide for and bring up her two younger brothers during World War II one of the most desperate political and economic periods in the history of the Ukraine. The three children now form a very close family unit and still reside with their respective families in the Ukraine.

Rosa, (Mama Rosa) as she is affectionately called by her two brothers married Dovenko, a mechanic. They have two sons, Mysa (Mike) and Tolia. Mysa and his wife Karesia have one child. Tolia is serving in the army.

Hrush and Yuri married sisters Nadia and Luba. Hyrsh a mechanic and his wife Nadia also have two sons, Dena and Yuri. Dena is working in a factory and Yuri is attending school.

Yuri a bus driver and his wife Luba have two daughters, Tanya and Halyia.

MARY SKAKUN

by Metro Chrapko

Mary Skakun was born December 6, 1895 to Andronik and Martha Skakun (nee Arychuk) at Shepenitz, Bukowina, Ukraine.

The Ukraine has been taken over and was under the Austrain-Hungarian Empire. Taxes were exacted on the citizens by the new landlords and in order not to lose ones Chattels or whatever property one might have, people had to work for the landlords to pay their dues. At 14 years of age, Mary went to work at a sugar beet factory in winter and in the beet fields in summer. She remembers being left behind by the other workers in the field because she was trying to do a good job of weeding and was cleaning weeds others left untouched. The landlord's overseer, not looking to see the weeds others left behind and what Mary was attempting to do, cursed her viciously. Mary did this work until her parents and family left for Canada in 1912.

Mary was 16 years of age when she came to Canada. She recalls being greeted at the Vegreville station by Bill Meroniuk, her mother's uncle and Hrehory Werenka. From Vegreville the family went to stay at Bill Meroniuks approximately 1 mile west and two miles north of Two Hills. Later that summer they moved to stay for a while at Anne and Fedor Melnyk's at Star, then to the homestead near Peno. The following spring the homestead at Peno was cancelled and the family moved to another homestead near Luzan on the SW ¼-36-55-11-W4th.

Mary helped her father build the log house on the homestead. She drilled holes for the dowels which secured the logs together while her father prepared the logs and dowels. After they finished plastering the house, Mary left for Vegreville where she took the train and went to Star to her aunts, Annie Melnyk. She stayed there one fall and summer where she stooked for farmers, then moved to another aunt, Mary Ewasiw (Martha's sister) near Redwater.

While at Ewasiw's she married Prokop (Pat) Rosychuk in 1913. Pat was born in 1891 to Nick and Martha Rosychuk in Shepenitz, Bukowina, Ukraine and had arrived with his parents in 1901. He worked on his parent's farm as a boy, then went with his father to work in the mines at Canmore where an uncle was working. He worked as a driver until about two years before he got married when he bought his land at Redwater.

After they married, Mary and Pat farmed and Pat went to the bush to earn extra income in the off season for one or two years. Mary tended the farm and family.

Mary remembers when she first came to Canada and her first attempt at stooking grain while staying at Melnyk's. She would put up a stook, it would collapse, another stook and again it would fall down, this exercise repeated itself time and again. Others in the field would have 3 or 4 rows completed and Mary was still on her first. Finally Mike Melnyk noticed her frustration, came to aid and showed her the proper technique of putting up stooks. Once she mastered it, no one could keep up to her.

All their children, John who died as a baby, Sophie, Annie, Elizabeth (Lyz), Rose, Adam and Martha were born while Mary and Pat were at Redwater. In 1935, they sold their farm and purchased the SE¼ 30-56-11-W4th

from Mary's uncle, Penteley Arychuk at Foisy. Pat came in March and Mary followed in July after the children were out of school. To supplement their farm income, Pat went back for two seasons to Redwater to work and Mary, besides working on their own field, would work for farmers in the area. She picked roots, rocks and stooked for her brother-in-law, John Chrapko, her neighbor Emile Swersawski and others in the neighborhood. During harvest many would see her stooking late into the night while her children slept. In 1942, when Adam was older and could look after the farm, Pat went to work at the Prince Rupert shipyard for three years. He was able to pay off the land with what he earned.

Mary could put many men to shame, the way she worked. She would not hesitate to pick up a hammer or saw if anything needed repairs, an axe to cut or split wood, twist binder twine into a rope or do any of a number of tasks normally expected of a man. Her hands were never idle and "spare time" was foreign to her. After her work outside was finished and the supper dishes done, Mary would start what many would consider a chore. She would sit by the lamp light drawing feathers for down pillows or card and spin wool into yarn she used for the woolen garments she knitted for her family. She wasted nothing. Any clothing material that was beyond further use she would cut in strips and use these to make into "rugs" on her hand powered loom.

Their son Adam farms the land now and until recently Mary and Pat stayed on the farm at Foisy. In 1977, Mary moved to the Eventide Senior Citizen Home in Two Hills and in 1979 Pat followed. Should you happen to visit Mary, she will no doubt be beside her loom weaving rugs and she will greet you with that dear, sweet smile.

Sophie Rosychuk married Mike Kruse in 1930 at Redwater. They moved together with Mary and Pat in 1935 to Foisy and farmed the SW¼ 27-56-11-W4th. Sophie passed away in 1963. Mike moved to Edmonton about 1965 and is in a nursing home there. They had three children, Nick, Nettie and Patricia.

Nick married Mary Eluik, daughter of Dymetro and Katie Eluik in 1950. Nick is employed at St. Paul Sales and Service. They have 4 children, Dennis, Donna, Cheryl and Tracy.

Dennis married Betty Bawden and they have one son, Kurtis.

Donna married Armand Tessier and have 2 children, Melissa, Merry and Jason Jared.

Cheryl is a hairdresser in St. Paul and Tracy is still at home.

Nettie married Andrew Melnychuk and lives in Kamloops B.C. Andy is employed as a mechanic and they have 3 children, Belinda, Janet and Lyle.

Patricia is married to Ray Masse and live with their children, Joey and Terry at Sherwood Park.

Annie Rosychuk married Alex Ternovoy in 1940. They moved to Prince Rupert, B.C. in 1942 where Alex was a welder in the shipyard. Anne took up sewing and later opened a Singers Sewing Machine Store. Alex passed away in 1967. They had 4 daughters, Sandra, Diane, Sonia and Gail.

Sandra married John Leniuk who works at the pulp mills. They have two sons and a daughter, Douglas, Terry and Darcy and live with their family in Prince Rupert.

Diane married Jim Blyte and they live in Port Edward, B.C. Jim is a welder and Diane works with her mother at the Singers Store.

Sonia married and lives with her children. Derek and Lea in Prince Rupert.

Gail and her husband Peter who is an electrician live in Fort St. John, B.C.

Elizabeth (Lyz) Rosychuk married Peter Boyko in 1940. They farmed for a while with his parents on the SW¼ 18-56-11-W4th near Brosseau, then in 1942 moved to Prince Rupert where Peter worked as a carpenter in the shipyards. They came back to Brosseau in 1943, then in 1947 moved to Vancouver where Peter built homes and was a finishing carpenter. Lyz remained in Vancouver after Peter passed away in 1975. They had 3 children, twin boys Jim and Jerry and a daughter, Judy.

Both boys are building contractors. Jim married Sandra Brown. They live in Kamloops with their children, Darren, Darlys and Desree.

Jerry married Joan Maxwell. They have a daughter Shay and son Chad. The family makes their home at 100 Mile House, B.C.

Judy married Hod Veil and have one child, Collin Michael. They operate their own colographic business in Vancouver.

Rose Rosychuk married Nick Eliuk of Two Hills in 1942. They went to Prince Rupert for a year then returned to farm with Nick's parents on the NW¼ 31-54-12-W4th. They have 3 children, Donald, and twin daughters Gloria and Gladys.

Donald and his wife Adella live in Prince Rupert with their family, Nicol and Krista from Adella's forme marriage and their daughter, Mary Anne. Donald is employed at the Government Grain elevators there. Gladys married Gary Rauschenberger, a refrigeration engineer. They have two sons, Darby and Michael and live in Post Edward, B.C. Gloria married Dieter Lehmann, an accountant. They have two boys, Jason and Derek and live in Prince George, B.C.

Adam Rosychuk married Anne Eliuk in 1949. They farm the home quarter at Foisy and the NW¼ 20-56-11-W4th on which they live and which they purchased from Nick Pundick. They have one son. Terry. Terry married Sonia Burhulke. They live in Peace River and have one son, Greg.

Martha Rosychuk married George M. Pawliuk in 1948 and farm on the E½ 26-55-13-W4th near Kaleland which was formerly owned by his parents, Metro and Mary Pawliuk. They have three daughters, Deborah, Marilyn and Cynthia.

Debbie married Les Reynolds. They have one daughter, Tonya and live at Rocky Mountain House.

Marilyn married Darryl Sander and they live in Edmonton.

Cindy is with her parents on the farm.

JENNIE SKAKUN

by Metro Chrapko

Eva and Jennie Skakun about 1935.

Jennie Skakun, aunty Genia as we affectionately know her, was born in 1906 to Andronik and Martha Skakun (nee Arychuk) in Shepenitz, Bukowina, Ukraine. She was 5 years old when her parents and family departed for Canada.

She had no opportunity to attend school as a girl and helped her mother look after the younger children on the homestead, the SW ¼-36-55-11-W4th.

She recalls one comical incident as a youngster when an older cousin of hers, Dzunia (Jenny) Nicholas Skakun's daughter, who lived nearby, from a religious order and read bible teachings. The first hut was rather skimpy, built out of small trees and branches that they gathered in the woods. Some prankster came along and knocked it down. The next hut was stronger and was built out of rail fencing someone had conveniently provided nearby. They dragged these further into the woods away and out of sight of would be prowlers. They were again discovered and the hut was torn down so the rails could be used for their original intent, for fencing. In their third attempt, they "Relieved" some lumber that was stacked on the farmstead, again moving their location still further away into the bush and where "nobody" could find it. this time they built it to last with a small clay stove and chimney. One evening they moved in bedding and all to spend the night and to read the bible. Just before turning in for the night they built a fire in the clay stove and went to bed. They were just comfortably tucked away when the hut began to fill up with smoke and chimney started on fire. Gasping for air, they hastily grabbed the stove, chimney and all, cast it outside and put out the fire. The chimney had been stuffed with twigs and branches from the top and had caught fire. They had been discovered again! It was later learned that John Palamaruk, who was to eventually marry her cousin, stumbled upon this so called "convent" while hunting in the woods and had stuffed the chimney as a prank. The parents also learned where the lumber had disappeared to. Needless to say that was the end of their "religious order".

Jennie married Nick Logozar, Ignaty's son in 1922 and moved to the NW ¼-3-56-11-W4th which Nick had purchased two years previously. Nick had built a log cabin and had 29 acres of land broken when they got married. There they raised their family of four, Maggie, Peter, Olga and Lillian.

When they first married Nick went out the following day to earn money, cutting brush for local neighbours so they could buy the necessary groceries and household effects for Jennie to start housekeeping. He worked brushing for two weeks at $2.50 per day. He returned home and the young couple plastered their new log cabin, then went back brushing and opening up his own land.

Jenny also recalls her wedding day. Her father went ahead to Mamaestie Church with a team and horses to give the bride away. Pat and Mary Rosychuk (Jenny's sister) who were best man and bridesmaid came later to bring Jenny to church in a Model T car that Pat had borrowed from a friend. After church, the bridal party was to return to her home for the reception then the newlyweds would be escorted back to their new home with the bride's belongings. Seeing that the bride came to church in a car, her father felt it would not be proper to escort her from home after the reception with a team and wagon. On the way from church he left his horses at Brosseau and hired George Emes and his Model T. After the celebration all was made ready to leave. The bridal party left first as is the custom, George Emes, his Model T loaded down with Jenny's hope chest, wedding gifts and other escorts left in the second car. On the way, the lights went out on George's car, they borrowed a lantern, tied it up in front to light the way and continued. After crossing the ferry at Duvernay to the north side, George, either because of the poor light or the celebrating drove over the embankment. The Model T rolled, George, escorts, hope chest, feather pillows and all. Fortunately no one was badly hurt but most of the belongings were lost.

In addition to farming, her husband earned their living as a carpenter. Many will remember the homes and barns he constructed in the area. In 1942 they purchased more land about 1 mile east of Brosseau. then in 1945 purchased the NW ¼-22 and SE ¼-22-56-11-W4th near Foisy. Their son Peter took over this land in Foisy in 1951. About 1950 a small home was constructed for her mother and she moved to stay with Jennie's family until she passed away in 1966.

Jenny and Nick together with their daughter Maggie retired to Two Hills. Their home there was constructed by her husband for their retirement. Nick died in 1973.

Maggie their oldest child is now in the Two Hills Nursing Home.

Peter married Lily Krochmal in 1959. Lily is the daughter of Walter and Margaret Korchmal. They live and farm at Foisy on land (W ½-21-25-11-W4th) they purchased from Lawrence Foisy. Their children Darrell

Dean, Margaret-Jean, Darlene Lillian, Karen Georgina, Bernadette Eugenia Nicola are on the farm with their parents.

Olga married Eugene Vegera in 1948. They farm near Warwick with their son Wayne. Their daughter Sherilyn married Bob Ferguson July, 1975 and they have one daughter, Carolyn.

Lillian married Dale Kent in 1975. The family, sons Kevin and Darrin from a previous marriage and son Kelly from Dale's previous marriage live with their parents in Calgary.

Eva and John Chrapko. Wedding picture 1928.

EVA SKAKUN

by Metro Chrapko

Eva Skakun, the youngest daughter in the family was born to Andronik and Martha Skakun (nee Arychuk) in 1910 at Shepenitz, Bukowina, Ukraine. She was eighteen months old when the family departed from the Ukraine on March 23rd, 1912.

Eva grew up on her parent's homestead on the SW ¼-36-55-11-W4th. No school was nearby and in those days teachers only came to teach in country schools during summer. If Eva happened to be in a particular district where a school and teacher was availble she attended, and if not she stayed home. After Ranock school was built, she attended for one full Summer.

Eva was never spared from hard work as a youngster or throughout her life. She recalls at age 14, after attending her one Summer of school at Ranock, she went to work at threshing machines, pitching bundles next to men, her raw blistered hands bleeding at the end of the day, only to return the next day to repeat the agony. Talk about women's liberation! With her earnings she was able to buy herself a pair of "Sunday" dress shoes. Those shoes lasted Eva a long time because when the girls went to the local dances, they would tuck their shoes under their arms and walk bare footed. Before arriving at the dance, they would wash their dusty feet in a nearby slough, put on their shoes, then proceed to the hall to dance the night away.

Eva recalls that it was the responsibility of the youngest members of the family to walk, or if a horse was available to ride, the 9½ miles for mail at the post office at Duvernay. She also remembers that money was scarce then and when the ammunition for hunting ran out, the children would snare rabbits and bush partridges to supplement the stew pot which was a common dish at the time. All you needed was a dog and a long slim pole with a wire snare at the end. For some reason, the bird hardly ever flew off after being treed by the dog. It seemed mesmerized by the barking of the dog at the base of the tree and if you approached slowly and deftly placed the snare around it's neck, with a quick jerk it was in the bag.

As a young girl, Eva also worked for Mr. and Mrs. George Skakun (not the same family) in Two Hills doing household chores and working in Skakun's Store. This type of "light house work" was a breeze for Eva.

On July 3rd, 1928, Eva married John Simion Chrapko and moved to their farm the S½ 29-56-11-W4th at Foisy. There they raised their family of five. One daughter, Clara and four sons, Metro, Victor, Ronald and Ivan.

Eva loved farming as did her husband John, but times were tough. As the young couple wrested their livelihood from the land, Eva was found next to John, picking roots and stones. The fall would again see Eva in the field stooking while Clara played or slept on blankets nearby.

Through all this Eva was able to plant her large garden, put up volumes of preserves, milk the cows and look after her family and household chores. As times progressed John could afford to hire help both for Eva and himself during the busy season.

The Depression caused a few anxious years when grain prices plummetted and they almost lost their farm. During World War II, however, demand for farm goods increased and farm incomes improved, Eva and John were able to pay off their farm. Unfortunately, it was the war that improved many farmers lot. They could afford to take trips to Banff and Jasper, the Hawaii of to-day, and visit with relatives in B.C.

About 1939, Eva was to suffer an illness which plagued her throughout her life. It was March and Peter Skakun, her older brother, was at the St. Paul hospital for an operation. Annie, Peter's wife, Eva and John wanted to visit but John did not have a car at the time. They decided to take Peter's car and on the way picked up Eva's other brother, Bill, at Lafond. While they were in St. Paul one of those freak March storms blew up and the roads began drifting in. On their return trip, the car would repeatedly get stuck in the drifts and Eva, not yet knowing how to drive would get in and out to help Bill push every time they got stuck. Wearing only dress overshoes and light stockings, the repeated melting and freezing of the snow on her legs caused her to catch cold in her legs. The full effects were not felt until two months

later when Eva could not get up from the stool while milking cows in the barn. She was helped to the house and put to bed. Her condition deteriorated. Within several hours her legs were swollen until she thought they would burst. The pain was excruciating. Eva was screaming when John and his brother Dan carried her out to the car to take her to hospital. Inflamed rheumatism was the diagnoses. Eva has suffered with her legs since and must always be careful to avoid dampness and rainy weather.

As a young couple, Eva and John took part in Ukrainian concerts at the local Foisy Hall. Eva acted or sang while John remained behind the scene as a prompter and director. In winter their troupe travelled by sleigh throughout the area to other communities to perform and raise funds for the community hall. Whenever they went on an extended trip, Eva's sister, Mary Rosychuk, who lived only a short distance West of Eva's and John's would baby sit with the two oldest children. They remember her coming over with her old spinning wheel on her shoulder, spinning yarn and spinning tales under the light of the coal oil lamp in their old home.

Although they worked hard then, there seemed to be time to socialize with their friends and neighbors. Many no doubt will remember the gaiety at the bazaars and dances at the old Foisy Hall. Also the fun at the "box social" dance where the girls would try out their culinary arts on prospective suitors. The ladies would either prepare a lunch or pie, gift wrap it and donate it for the social. The idea was to keep the whole thing a secret and not divulge the name of the girl who brought the package to the dance. Just before the lunch break, the parcels were auctioned off with the name of the girl inside. The young man who bought the parcel was to have lunch with the girl whose name was enclosed. Sometimes during the course of the evening the secret would get out as to who brought a particular parcel and if the girl had several prospective suitors, the bidding became hot and heavy.

Things gradually improved on the farm and in about 1946, Eva and John built their new house fully serviced with electricity and running water. Gone were the times of the coal oil and Aladdin lamps, the cleaning of lamp chimneys and replacing burnt mantles. You could bath as often as you wanted in a long tub forever discarding the little round galvanized tub. Eva could have a refrigerator, a mix master or electric stove. It was time to celebrate and celebrate they did, inviting those who helped build their house as well as neighbors and friends alike.

Eva was in her glory with her modern conveniences, she could cook to her heart's concent. She must have inherited her culinary talents from her mother and cooking was and still is a labour of love for her. It was always amazing how, at a moments notice, Eva could whip up a meal for a threshing crew of men or unexpected company. Whenever friends or family drop in, her first question usually is "Have you eaten?" Even if you say you have or you're not hungry, Eva still goes about preparing a meal or lunch, you are always welcomed and made to feel at home at Eva's. When you leave, especially if you are a visitor from afar, Eva will usually have something to give you, either something she baked or something she made with her hands. Throughout her life she has never stopped giving.

Eva's husband, John, passed away on September 21st, 1972. Two years later her son Victor and his family took over the family farm and Eva moved to her home in Two Hills. Whenever she is able she still enjoys going back to the farm to help.

Recently, Eva has taken trips with members of her family. Her most enjoyable trip ocured in the Summer of 1979 when she went to the Ukraine, the country she left as a babe in arms. There she was to meet for the first time the children and grandchildren of her oldest brother, Metro. She was also reunited with some of John's relatives.

She is doing things now she didn't have too much time for in the past, however time never stands still for Eva. She's "knitting up a storm" and keeps everyone busy just trying to keep her sufficiently supplied with the "right kind of wool."

Clara the eldest and only daughter married Joseph Shemanchuk from St. Michael on September 1st, 1951. Her husband is an entomologist and is employed as a research scientist with the Federal Government in Lethbridge. Joe has carried out extensive research in mosquito and black fly control in Alberta. They have two sons, Allan and Ronald.

Eva Chrapko with her sister Mary Rosychuk about 1965.

Allan, a pharmacist, married Carol Taylor and they have a daughter, Julianna. They live in Sherwood Park.

Ronald is an electrician and lives in Lethbridge.

Metro the eldest son married Cecile Isabel of Falher in February, 1959. Metro is employed by the Provincial Department of Environment and lives with his wife in Edmonton. Both Metro and Cecile devote a great deal of volunteer time to their community.

Victor married Elizabeth Achtemichuk of Mymam in July, 1964. Victor and Lyz live on the family farm which they took over in 1974. Victor is continuing in his father's tradition of improving the farm opertions and in being

involved in community affairs with his wife. They have two sons and two daughters. Evan, Tonia, Shane and Xina.

Ronald married Elaine Whissell of Westlock in December, 1970. They have two children, Jennifer and Ryan. They make their home in St. Albert. Ronald is a Civil Engineer and is in partnership with his younger brother, Ivan in Cicon, an Engineering Consulting firm. Ron operates the Edmonton branch of this firm.

Ivan, the youngest son married Dian Sava (Nee Hanson) of Calgary in June, 1979. Dian was widowed shortly after her first marriage and has one son Ricky. Ivan and his family live in Calgary. He is also a Civil Engineer and operates the Calgary branch of Cicon.

Adam Skakun about 1933.

ADAM SKAKUN

by Metro Chrapko

Adam Skakun was born on August 19, 1915 to Andronik and Martha Skakun (nee Arychuk). He grew up in the Luzan district on his parents farm. After Ranook school was built, about 1924 he went to school there till he was 13 years old.

After his father died there was not more time for Adam to continue school. He had to help his mother keep the farm and family going. Whenever he was not farming at home, he would go out to work for local farmers in the district. He remembers working for 25¢ per day. Those were the going rates in those days and children had to grow up in a hurry.

One bit of luxury that Adam allowed himself occured when he was about 12 years old. He was at a dance just looking on when a fight broke out. Adam hid himself under a wagon or buggy to observe this event. As the battle progressed someone pulled a knife and stabbed the opponent. Adam was called as a witness to the trial and his vivid description and testimony of the event prompted the judge to give Adam a small reward. Adam purchased a bicycle with the proceeds and was the envy of all the children in the vicinity.

After his younger brother Bill was old enough to take over the farming opertion at home, Adam at 19 bought his farm, the SW ¼-33-56-11-W4th at Foisy. He farmed and batched there on his own for two years, then on October 15, 1936 married Nidia Ternovoy, the daughter of Alex and Mary Ternovoy of Foisy.

Adam and Nidia kept up with the times. It was fun to visit them and listen to the old R.C.A. Victor phonograph — the one with the large horned speaker that you had to hand crank to wind up the drive spring before the record ended and change the needle after only a few records. Another thing that was fun doing when the adults weren't watching and if you were "a bit naughty" was to listen in on the party line telephone that they had on their farm. It was the type that you hooked on the barbed wire fence and on a cold, clear winter's eveing when the wires tightened up from the frost the reception was excellent!

Many in the district will remember Adam's horse "Sparky", the best wild, bucking bronc in the area. Sparky entertained many crowds at the Saddle Lake Stampede and embarrassed many aspiring bronc busters.

Memories also bring back Nidia singing, either solo or in harmony with her sister, Rita. It was beautiful!

Their son David and daughter Deanna were born while Adam and Nidia were still on the farm.

In 1946 Adam decided to venture into the business world and bought the A & B Cafe at St. Paul in partnership, then about 1948, the Lavoie Cafe. He left the restaurant business in 1950 to go into another partnership in the Case Implement dealership. In 1952 he opened up his own shop and went into the tire business. He went again into partnership in a combined I.H.C. implement dealership and tire ship in 1962. For the next 3 years he managed the tire end of the business, while his partners managed the implement end. Then in 1965 Adam established another tire shop independently and operated a very successful business until 1977 when he retired.

David married Olive Code of Oyen in 1963. Olive had been working in Athabasca as a public health nurse. They have one daughter, Gwen and two sons, David and Sheldon. David followed in his father's footsteps and started up Dave & Richards Tire Shop with his friend in 1960 at Lac La Biche.

Deanna married Robert Blais October 8, 1978 and they have one daughter, Raylene. She has two daughters from a previous marriage, Chantel and Stacey. Robert works with the C.N.R. and the family lives in St. Paul.

Adam and Nidia are enjoying their retirement in St. Paul.

BILL SKAKUN

by Metro Chrapko

Bill Skakun, the youngest of the family was born in 1917 to Andronik and Martha Skakun (nee Arychuk).

He grew up on the family homestead, the SW¼ 36-55-11-W4th and started school at age 7 at Ranook, then

while staying at his sister's, Jennie Logozar attended two years at Mamaestie school. He quit school at 13 years of age and went to work for farmers near Milk River for the summer of 1930.

His father died later that Fall and Bill stayed on the homestead to help his mother and brother Adam. The Depression of the 30s was on and times were difficult. Martha and the two boys struggled farming and earning money from whatever other source of work they could find. In 1934 Adam moved to Foisy where he bought his own farm and Bill stayed on with his mother on the homestead. The land was marginal and it was difficult to make a go of it.

About 1938, Bill married Medoria Holinsky, a local girl and the daughter of Wasel (Bill) and Anna Holinski. They bought a farm about the same year and moved approximately one mile West of Lafond. There their three children were born. Barney and the twins Juliane and Johnny. Bill's mother also moved to Lafond.

The land was better at Lafond. Bill opened up more land. To pay his debts or to get work done with machinery he could not yet provide Bill would give of himself. His energy for tractor power.

One Summer when Bill wanted to get some work done on his farm and his brother-in-law, John Chrapko wanted to go with his wife Eva on a summer trip to B.C. they agreed that he would use John's caterpiller and implements to do his own field work in return for doing John's summer fallow. He finished his fields, then moved to John's and wanting to finish before they returned, he went none stop for 3 days and nights. He finished, got to bed and flaked out. For a while, it looked like he would need to be hospitalized.

Bill makes friends easily and got along well with his neighbors. On one occassion the men who belonged to the Catholic Community at Lafond were trying to raise funds for their church. They decided to hold an arm wrestling contest at Lafraniere's store at two bits a throw. The contest was in progress when Bill appeared on the scene. Bill rolled up his sleeves and went to work. One by one he beat his opponents. Some in the room became concerned because Bill was not of their faith and the money that was to go to the church was slowly but surely dwindling. Bill took on all comers and wrestled them down. When there were no more takers left, he painfully rolled down his sleeves, picked up the money and turned it over to the group to donate to the church. If memory serves me correctly, he won about $3.50 that night and a number of admiring friends.

Things gradually improved on the farm but as farming goes, with each improvement or purchase of machiney, more money is required to pay for it. The children recall Bill leaving home in 1945 to work in the mines at Drumheller with their uncles, Harry and George Holinski.

After selling his farm in 1948, Bill decided to try his hand at business and went into partnership with his brother Adam in the Lavoie Cafe at St. Paul. His mother's house was moved and she moved to stay at

Bill Skakun.

Mary and Pat Rosychuk's. This business venture lasted for 1½ years, then he bought the Foisy Store in 1950 at its original site, 2 miles South and one East from where it stands now.

He sold and moved his family back to St. Paul in 1951 where he worked for the M.D. of St. Paul, building roads. In the off season he went to Smithers B.C. to work in the logging camps, then returned again to work for the M.D. of St. Paul.

1952 was the year that was to affect the family's lives forever. Medoria caught cold and it progressively worsened. She went first to hospital at St. Paul then Elk Point and finally to the Aberhart Memorial Hospital in Edmonton where she passed away in July 1953. Barney was 13 and the twins were 11 years old at the time. After she died, Johnny and Julie went to stay at Medoria's sister, Mary and John Marchenko's until they graduated in 1960 from the Two Hills High School. Barney stayed with his father for a while, then with people at St. Paul. At 15 years of age he left to go to work on his own.

Bill stayed on with the M.D. of St. Paul, road building, gradually moving up to "patrol" (motor grader) and crew foreman. He took his work seriously and was a top grade finisher. Many in the district will recall Bill on the motor grader grading in summer and snowplowing roads in winter. He wasn't one to take things easy and didn't mind changing the blades on his "patrol." Whenever he got behind the wheel and levers he would make that patrol "snort" and after he had gone by you knew Bill was the "operator" by the results.

Bill remarried in 1966 to Mary Harasym (nee Wertypora.) Mary had seven children when she was widowed, Olga, Johnny, Norman, Noreen, Fern, Gloria, and Jerry. Her children are all married.

In 1967 Bill and Mary moved to Fort McMurray where Bill worked at the tar sands. He was one of the original group of men to go to Fort McMurray when the Great Canadian Oil Sands (G.C.O.S.) started up in the tar sands. He worked as a motor grader operator, training supervisor and blaster.

After retiring from G.C.O.S. in 1978, he and his wife moved back to St. Paul.

Barney married Julie Prenevost, the daughter of Albert and Blanche (nee Drouin). They have three

children, Gregory, Brian and Cindy. Barney is in partnership in the Arcade business in Quesnel B.C.

Juliane married Val Lopatka, son of Anastasia and John Lopatka in 1962. Val is employed with Celanese Canada in Edmonton. They have two children, Laureen and Gordon.

Johnny and Eleanor, his wife since 1965 have two children, Trevor and Margo. Johnny is a Petty Officer in the Canadian Navy and the family lives in Victoria, B.C.

ANDRONIK SKAKUN FAMILY

by Metro Chrapko

Andronik (Andrew) Skakun (1864-1930) youngest of a family of six was born to Andrew Skakun and Irene (nee Kozak) on Mary 19th, 1864.

Documents vary but it appears Andronik was born in Shepenitz, Kotzman, Bukowina, Ukraine (The Ukraine was then under the Austrian-Hungarian Empire of Franz Joseph I).

He had three brothers and two sisters, Michaelo, Tanasko, Nicolai, a sister, name unknown who married a Yaremichuk and Sister Katerina.

Andronik grew up on his parents farm in the Ukraine and was an avid student. As a young man, he was employed with the government railway as a crossing control officer. Later a marriage was arranged — those things were done in those days, between himself and Marafta (Martha) Arychuk (1874-1966). Martha was born December 17, 1874, daughter of Hrihory Arychuk and (nee Meroniuk).

Martha was the third oldest in a family of 5 children. Her brothers and sisters were Hrihory, (Harry), Penteley, Annitsa (Annie) and Maria (Mary).

Andronik and Martha Skakun had 12 children. Harry and Bill who died as infants, Mary, Metro, Peter, Sophie, Jennie, Nick (who burned himself as a small boy and died) and Eva were all born in the Ukraine. Sons Nick (named after deceased brother) Adam, and Bill (who was also named after his deceased brother) were born in Canada.

On March 23, 1912, Andronik arranged passports for his family and they departed for Canada. They sailed on the Mount Royal, arriving at Quebec on May 10, 1912. His brother Nicolai and his family who homesteaded on the NE ¼-34-55-11-W4th near Luzan and a niece Rayehta daughter of his brother Tanasko came to Canada at the same time. Rayehta later married Phillip Mandryk of Vegreville.

From Quebec, the family travelled by train, arriving at Vegreville in June. At this point the account of events varies. One account is that the family was greeted at the station by Hrehory Kereliuk and Bill Meroniuk, Martha's uncle, and Ignaty Logozar. From there the family moved in to stay with Ignaty Logozar on his homestead on the SW 10-56-11-W4th near Brosseau. Late in July, Fedor Melnyk who married Martha's sister, Anne, moved them to stay with his family near Star. The other account is that

Back row left to right: Mr. John Chrapko, Adam Skakun, Nick Logozar. Center row: Pete Skakun holding Edward, Mrs. Anna Skakun holding Ernest, Front row: Martha Skakun holding Pete Logozar, Maggie Logozar, Mrs. Eva Chrapko holding Clara and Jennie Logozar with Olga standing in front.

they were greeted at Vegreville by Bill Meroniuk and Hrihory Werenka. The family then stayed at Bill Meroniuks, 1 mile west and 2 miles north of Two Hills until they moved to Melnyks.

On August 2, 1912, Andronik applied for a homestead in the area near Peno, on the NW ¼-3-58-18-W4th. The homestead was located approximately one mile south of the North Saskatchewan River and the Creek after which Peno Post Office was named flowed through their homestead. By November Andronik had built a earth covered home where the family over wintered. His wife Martha was not happy living in that district and wanted to return to live near her uncles Bill and Peter Meroniuk, this coupled with the fact that the soil was very sandy and of generally poor quality prompted Andronik to cancel that homestead and on February 6, 1913 file for another on the SW ¼-36-55-11-W4th near Luzan and again about one mile south of the North Saskatchewan River. Before Easter of that year, the family moved and set up temporary quarters in an earth covered house at John Harasym's homestead about one and one half miles away from Andronik's homestead.

The family recalls that Andronik immediately went about trying to provide for his family by asking for a sack of wheat from each of several people, then combining the whole lot, crushing it for flour. The mixture proved to be very dark in colour and course in texture resulting in a "black bread" that looked more like cake than the bread we know to-day. His daughter Jennie recalls one occasion when Andronik was in a particularly argumentive mood when a neighbor came to visit. The neighbour suggested "Give your father some of that cake and he'll fall asleep contented".

The family hewed out their land and built their accommodation from the trees at hand. The 15' x 30' log house on the homestead comprised of two rooms. One room was a combination kitchen and dining area, the other a living room and sleeping quarters. Each evening boards were layed across benches and covered with quilts and large feather pillows to make up a large common bed where the family slept.

Mrs. Peter Skakun's father, (Odinsky).

Unless you had the means or were already established and could afford horses, walking was the only mode of travel. The family remembers Andronik walking from Luzan to Star to pick up a cow in-calf at Melnyks and driving her back to the homestead. Times were hard as for most homesteaders. Andronik and Martha continued to improve their land and farmstead and worked at odd jobs to earn whatever money they could. One project well remembered and which Andronik helped it was the plastering of the Duvernay Hotel.

Martha cooked for weddings and served as mid-wife in the community. Many in the Brosseau-Duvernay area will no doubt remember their mothers telling them that Martha helped bring them into the world.

On September 5, 1919 at age 55, Andronik applied for patent to the land. By then he had 30 acres of land broken and cropped, a 15′ x 30′ log house, 2 stables 16′ x 28′, 1 granary, 1 chicken house, put up 2 miles of wire and rail fence and owned 6 horses, and 12 head of cattle. On December 23, 1920 a patent to the land was issued to Andronik Skakun.

Two tragic events followed. Metro at about age 22 wrote a note saying that he was returning to help develop the Ukraine. With only that note he left, and never returned. Nick (named after a previously deceased brother) at about 12 years of age broke through the ice while crossing a slough with friends and drowned.

In 1930 another tragedy befell the family when Andronik drowned in the North Saskatchewan River at Duvernay. Ice on the river hampered the search and his body was not recovered until the following spring, at North Battleford, Saskatchewan.

Bill and Adam, the two youngest sons stayed on to help their mother on the farm during the depression of the 1930's. Later when Adam left, Bill remained and lived on the farm until he married. After Bill bought his farm at Lafond, his mother stayed with his fmaily. Later she moved to her daughter's, Mary Rosychuk at Foisy and finally to her other daughter's, Jennie Logozar at Brosseau. Martha passed away August 1, 1966 and rests in peace at Mamaestie cemetary.

Most of the children after leaving home to work or marry settled in the district north of the North Saskatchewan River. Some of the grandchildren still remember the Christmas's at Baba's (grandmothers) when sleigh

Andronik and Martha Skakun's family. Back row L. to R.: Peter, Nick and Eva. Front row: Andronik, Bill, Martha and Adam, about 1925.

loads of families crossed the river at a river crossing, south of the homestead. At times, because of the steep icy river banks, the horses could not pull their load without falling. Everyone would have to get off the sleighs and walk behind in the crisp, frosty moonlit night as the horses conquered each steep incline. Somehow grandma always managed to give each child a present. The eraser tipped pencil and newsprint scribbler was cherished and treasured. How everyone was able to fit into the small house remains a mystery, however, there always seemed to be room enough for merriment and play while the adults feasted, laughed and sang those beautiful old Ukrainian songs and Christmas carols.

In 1972 the old log house, the stable and a portion of the old willow picket fence near the entrance gate still remained. A little the worst for wear of course, but still intact. The cedar shingles on the roof of the old stable had weathered over the years and seemed the thickness of parchment with only tiny stubs of thin rusty shingle nails protruding.

In 1978 when the homestead was revisited the land had been bought up by the government for the Ranock Community Pasture. Although the land had been bought up by the government for the Ranook Community Pasture, the land clearing and fencing for the pasture ends about 200 feet to the south of the original farmstead and the farmstead was not developed for pasture, someone saw fit to bulldoze the buildings into one large heap of rubble. It was a heart breaking sight.

EDMUND SMITH (SCHMIDT)

by Allan Smith

Was born in 1881 at Duck Lake, Sask., presently known as St. Louis. He was orphaned at an early age, results of his father being drowned, so not too much is known of his ancestry. From Duck Lake, he came by horse (Wagon) train to the St. Albert Mission in 1889. Consequently, he became a ward of Father Lacombe and Msg. Grandin. His next move was to the Lac La Biche Mission where he went to school until the age of fifteen, age limit for boys at that residence. Fr. Lacombe had him come to Saddle Lake Sacred Heart Mission in 1896. He prides himself in having been altar boy for that well-renowned missionary. Many were the times he travelled by snowshoes, dog-sled, on foot. etc. with Fr. Lacombe who attended and ministered to the missions from St. Albert to Lac La Biche. He knew this country like the back of his hand.

Lac La Biche Mission where Edmund Smith was raised.

At some point and time in his life, he took up coronet playing in St. Albert and with an early Edmonton Band they partook in a competition in Regina where they won a trophy. Another event of note in his life, was helping to dig the basement of the Hudson Bay Store in Edmonton.

By trade, he became a surveyor and he often mentioned working with the survey gang on the highway (28) west of St. Paul des Metis. In 1900, he went to the Ben's Lake District to work on the Tom Watt Ranch. Then in 1903, he went back to surveying, this time with a Mr. Bondeau, as to him this line of work was interesting and adventurous. He enjoyed seeing all aspects of this big country, Canada. This time, his job lead him to Plain Lake, Sickman Lake, south to Medicine Hat and hence to British Columbia, down to Vancouver.

In the meantime, Marguerite Ducharme had made her appearance into this world and was winding her way towards her destiny. She was born in 1883 and spent her girlhood at the mission. She then went to St. Paul de Metis in 1901, where she worked in the Poitras Hotel.

Edmund Smith married Marguerite Ducharme in 1910.

She took up cooking as a trade and became quite proficient at it especially preparing wild game. Her next employment was at a stopping-place and boarding-house (name unknown), 1 mile north of the village of Lafond, on the highway to St. Paul. From there, with her experience, it was to the St. Hilaire Hotel in Brosseau.

Meanwhile, in 1907, Edmund returned to Ben's Lake and bought Jim Todd's farm NE 24-54-14-W4. Afterwards he left to do more survey work. This time it led him to Lesser Slave Lake and Ft. St. John. As a sideline he was acting as a guide, trapping and hunting wild game for the party. He was a natural at that line of activity. In 1909, it was back to Ben's Lake.

In 1909, Marguerite decided to spend her Christmas at Ben's Lake with her friend, Mrs. Noe Theroux (neé Clemence Laboucane from St. Paul). There she met and married Edmund Smith in 1909. Their married life was lived on that farm until 1955. Allan, his son, had bought two lots and a house in Lac La Biche in 1951 and a swap was made with his dad — his possessions in Lac La Biche for the farm.

A full circle was made, they were back in Lac La Biche and on Jan. 5th, 1956, Marguerite was called to her eternal rest. Edmund then made his home with his daughter Alice Eluik, in Cold Lake. His call came on April 17, 1967 and now Edmund and Marguerite are resting side by side in the Lac La Biche Cemetery.

Their descendants are;

Laura : born Aug. 24, 1909, married Victor Huppie in the

Right: Gilbert Ducharme (Mrs. Edmund Smith's brother), and his Army Buddy, Jim Houghston, 1914-1918.

Vegreville RC. Church, and they live in Grandin.
Allan Wilfred: born Aug. 20, 1911, married Mary Louise Cardinal from Lac La Biche, Nov. 24, 1953.
Maggie: born 1913, married in 1933 to Robert Poitras from Two Hills.
Caroline: born 1915, married Edmund Huppie (deceased) in 1932 at Ben's Lake by Father Murphy.
Rosie: born 1917, married Tony Bouvier from Lac La Biche.
Alice: born 1921, married Metro Eliuk in 1947, son of Mr. and Mrs. John T. Eliuk of Hairy Hill, winner of the Barley World Championship in Chicago in 1950.
George Victor: 1924, veteran of 2nd World War, now in a Vancouver, B.C. Hospital.
Irene: born 1926, was a WREN in the Navy 1943 - 1945. She worked in a Hospital, married Mickey Hammer from Lac La Biche in 1955.

Mary: born 1927, married Mike Wurkun from Edmonton.

Back row: Rosie (Smith) Bouvier, her husband Tony, Mrs. Maggie Watt, Dorothy Wurkun, Irene (Smith) Hammer. Front row: Mary (Smith) Wurkun, and Caroline (Smith) Huppie.

Alice (Smith) Eliuk and her husband Metro.

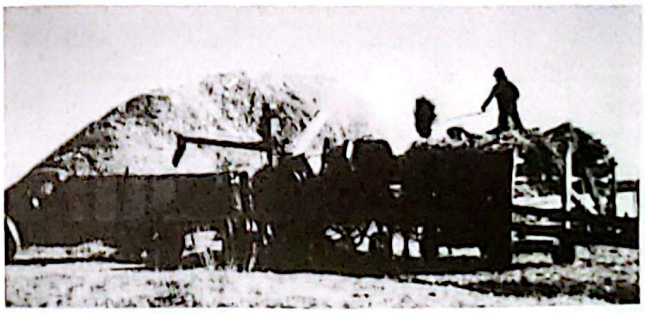
George Smith, Edmund Smith's youngest son.

ALLAN WILFRED SMITH

by Allan Smith

Born Aug. 20th, 1911. Went to school at Wattsford for 2 years and Hairy Hill until 1926. On leaving school Allan worked for different farmers: Si Richardson, Tom Watt, Bob Watt, Johnny Brosseau (1928) and then back to the home farm. Allan raised Greyhounds and hunted coyotes for a hobby — the price of which was not conducive to a fortune. Prices of pelts ranged from $2.50 to $11.00. He and his helper Ernest Didier found it exciting and a challenge — man versus a wily animal! Allan is not asking for a spectacular life or wealth but like in this little poem I've read: "I do not ask for riches: But only for a little home: With warmth and love inside: I do not ask that honors: Be heaped upon my head: But only for good friends: Who care a bit instead." Like his parents, he has a true sense of hospitality.

At an early age Allan freighted for the Brosseau store owned by Edmond and Alphonse Brosseau. Edmund, his dad had a contract for a year (1919-20) so Allan had his chance to learn, and he remembers winning a Christy Stiff hat for being the youngest freighter from Vegreville to Brosseau. He had his choice of any hat in the store but chose this one, cheaper than the others, but it had struck his fancy. How proud he was of it and he wore it everywhere! Unfortunately he wore it to a picnic at Schoff's and entered a boxing match, forgetting to take off his hat. During the fight, Nick Skakun tore off the crown of his prize hat and the stiff rim encircled his neck. With tears in his eyes and an injured pride, he was going



Threshing on Allan Smith's farm in 1980.

to avenge the loss of his treasure. Needless to say it was a good fight — but what else can you expect when you are 9 or 10 years of age.

He also hauled wheat to Vegreville for Ambrose Gray, Mitch Theroux and other local farmers who needed drivers. That was a long haul by team.

Allan met Louise Cardinal in Lac La Biche and married her on Nov. 24th, 1953. The marriage took place in a little chapel and the priest was Father Magraine. They raised eight children; Margaret (1952), Edmund (1954), Marlene (1955), Laura (1958), Elliot (1960), Lorna (1971), Arlene (1972), Darrel (1973). Margaret is married to Robert Flaathen.

Allan is now retired and living on the farm. He puts in a garden every spring and helps whenever needed.

FRANK SMITH

by Alaine McLean

Frank Smith — Born in Barrow-in-Furnace, Lancashire England in the year 1880. At the early ages, 4 to 9 years old, he worked in the coal mines. This was during the Industrial Revolution in England when they still used children in the coal mines because they were small and could move around easily in the narrow mine shafts. Frank was a determined fellow and managed to get a grade 10 education in one of the local schools. In 1911 he made his way to Canada, and with a friend trekked up to the northern parts of Alberta and B.C., and ended up cooking for the Grand Trunk Line at a camp in Fort George (the present Prince George). When the first world war broke out he heard the call and on Feb. 8, 1915 joined the 51st Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Forces (England, France, Canada) in Edmonton.

Frank Smith and Marguerite Daignault in 1927, from l to r — Bessie, Charles, Bill and Margaret.

A year later, in France, he was wounded. After being awarded the 1914-1918 Great War for Civilization medal and the George V British Service medal he was discharged in 1919.

He came back to southen Alberta and worked in Real Estate for a short while, then came up to Brosseau to homestead the Township 56, Range 11, Sec. 18 N.E. 4 on June 21, 1919. He built a shack and officially moved in on September 1 of the same year. For fresh water he had to dig a well 30 feet deep. At 26 ft. he hit water and dug an extra four feet for a good supply. In the following year he married a young Metis girl from Fishing Lake. Her name was Marguerite Daignault and they were married in St. Paul. They had 13 children, 9 of which are still living. Their names are (from eldest to youngest) as follows: (Ada, Bessie, Bill, Marguerite, Albert, Charles, Arnold, Art, Wilfred, Alain, Edith, Gladis, Priscilla). Apart from raising children he was also instrumental in establishing the United Farmers Union, taking up the position of secretary. He was also associated with the Mamaestie School Board in the late 1920s and early 30s.

His wife died giving birth to the youngest in 1940.

He also looked after the Foisy Hall in the early 1940s.

Picnics were held on the south-east corner of the farm, right across the road from the hall. In 1945 he rented the farm and purchased five acres of land from Martin Lavallee in Brosseau, just up from the river upon which he built "The Big House" (still standing).

He raised some chickens and worked for the Municipality when Highway 36 was reconstructed. He was enumerator, Returning Officer and Poll Clerk at various Elections. He was a staunch supporter of the Social Credit movement, having helped get Ray Reirson elected. In his later years Frank migrated south to Calgary to spend the cold winters and returning to the "shack" in the spring. He was laid to rest Jan. 29/1973 in the Soldiers' Field of Honour Plot in St. Paul, Alberta.

WILLIAM JAMES SMITH

by Hazel Smith

William James Smith and Hazel Elizabeth were married April 23, 1946 in the St. Laurent Roman Catholic Church, Brosseau. William (Bill) was the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Smith. He was born April 7, 1925 on the family farm SE¼ 18-56-11-W4th and attended the Mamaestie School. Hazel, the youngest child of Mr. and Mrs. George Emes was born July 19, 1926 in the family residence in the hamlet of Brosseau. She was in the Duclos mission where she attended school for seven years. She finished her schooling in the St. Laurent School in Brosseau.

Their first home was on the Smith farm which they rented, from the spring of 1946 to the fall of 1948. They then moved to Blackfoot, Alberta where Bill was employed in the Lloydminster oil fields. When construction

Wedding of Bill and Hazel Smith in front of the St. Laurent Church Brosseau April 23, 1946. L to R — Helen Smith, Pearl Coutu, Mr. George Emes Sr., Hazel, Bill, Mr. Frank Smith, Roger Coutu, Wilfred Smith.

of the plant in Duvernay was underway, they left the oil patch and took up residence in Brosseau, in the house they had purchased in 1949 from Hazel's father. When the plant began operating on December 12, 1953 Bill hired on as fireman in the boiler room. Through home study he obtained his second class engineer certificate, and, in 1978 was awarded an engraved gold pocket watch for 25 years' service at the plant.

Bill joined the armoured corps in Calgary on November 26, 1943, then transferred to the 49th Loyal Edmonton Regiment. He went over to Europe aboard the New Amsterdam and disembarked at Greenock, Scotland, and trained in Aldershot England. He went to Italy in a cargo ship landing in Naples. He fought through Italy and the Po Valley, eventually ending up in Leghorn, Italy, then on to Marseilles, France, via landing craft. He travelled through France on the back of a truck, all the way to the Rhine River. In Germany, he trained again for a few weeks, then went on to the Iseal crossing and the last bit of fighting along the Zider Zee. Shortly after the river crossing the great number "2" was over. He then joined the Pacific forces. He was returned to Canada on the Queen Mary and docked in New York. From there he travelled by train to Calgary. While on embarkation leave the war in the Pacific ended. He was then sent to a holding unit in Brandon, Manitoba and discharged on March 7, 1946. He was awarded the 1939-1945 star, Italy star, France and Germany star, Canadian Volunteer medal and clasp. He is now a member of the Two Hills branch of the Canadian Legion.

In 1977 Bill took a canoe trip down the Clearwater, Athabasca, Peace and Slave Rivers going as far north as Fort Smith in the North West Territories.

Nearly a year went into the planning of a canoe trip they had hoped would take them to the Yukon. Wayne Emes would be the Captain and navigator, and Bill would go along for moral support.

On June 10th, 1977 a truck was loaded with their paraphernalia and they headed for Fort McMurray. They launched their small canoe in the Clearwater River. It was loaded with enough provisions for ten weeks.

On their trip there was plenty of rain and wind, the occasional hour of sun accompanied by millions of mosquitoes. No major mishaps were encountered: only the water pump on the kicker had to be repaired. This was done aboard a dredge.

They travelled down the Athabasca River and across Lake Athabasca. While on the lake a storm came up that tested Wayne's navigation, and Bill's bravery. Upon reaching an island they looked at each other and said, "Made it!" After entering the Slave River the Rangers rerouted them to the Peace River as there was a Government Weir built on the river.

They found the Peace River very high, the center was full of logs and debris. There were times when the rapids would be heard for miles. They eventually were back on the Slave River and reached Fitzgerald. Here they portaged approximately fifteen miles by truck. They set up a camp at Dead Man's Falls which is situated on the north side of Fort Smith in the North West Territories. They then walked into town to phone home.

Bill Smith river trip, Dog Island on Lake Athabasca 2 miles west of Fort Chipewan.

Wayne Emes installing new water pump aboard a dredge on Lake Athabasca.

Dead Mans Rapids at Fort Smith, N.W.T.

While in Fort Smith they talked to several trappers who had spent a lot of time on those restless waters. They warned them of more rains and faster water ahead. It was then they decided to send their boat and equipment back to Edmonton by truck and they would fly back.

Though the trip lasted ten days instead of ten weeks it was well worth the experience, if only, just to see the beautiful barren lands of the North.

Mavis Haswell, James Smith, Kenneth Smith, Brian Smith, Sharon Loyer, Dale England, Wayne Smith, William (Bill) J. & Hazel Smith.

Through the years Bill and Hazel have been very active within the realms of their family. Gardening has always been a family project and probably always will be. However, when it was too warm to work in the garden everyone would jump into the car to spend the rest of the day at Lac Sante. Camping was enjoyed by all especially the blueberry patches in the Glendon or Pinehurst areas.

Their seven children are married now, working in Edmonton, and raising their own families.

James Charles was born October 9, 1946 in Brosseau. He started grade one in Blackfoot, Alberta, transferred to Two Hills, graduating in 1965. He attended Northern Alberta Institute of Technology where he took Architectural Technology. He married Peggy Elizabeth Mercer on May 4, 1968. Their first child was born March 27, 1980 — Charles William Barton. Peggy is the eldest daughter of Mr. & Mrs. John Thomas Mercer (Jack) of Edmonton, Alberta.

Dale Elizabeth was born November 25, 1947 in the Two Hills Municipal Hospital. She graduated in Two Hills in 1966 and then took a secretarial course in McTavish College. She married Leon Walter England on October 14, 1967. They have two sons, William Boyd, born March 26, 1970 and Trevor James born August 27, 1973. Leon is the eldest son of Mr. & Mrs. William England of Provost, Alberta.

Sharon Anne was born July 10, 1949 in the Two Hills Municipal Hospital. She attended school in Two Hills completing Grade 10. She married Alvin Richard Loyer August 30, 1969. They have one son, Lance Richard, born November 25, 1969. Alvin is the fourth son of Mr. & Mrs. Clifford Henry Loyer of Edmonton.

Brian Arthur William was born September 16, 1952 in the Lloydminster Hospital, Saskatchewan. He attended school in Two Hills and the St. Paul Regional completing grade twelve at the Alberta Vocational College. He married Catherine Marion Mackenzie May 12, 1972. They have two children, Kristin Anne born November 26, 1972, and Kurtis Brian born March 26, 1976. Catherine is the second child of Mr. & Mrs. Joseph George Mackenzie of Brosseau.

William (Bill) Smith and Hazel Emes in front of the family residence April 23, 1946.

Wayne Franklyn George was born January 28, 1955 in the Two Hills Municipal Hospital. He attended school in Two Hills until grade 10, then the St. Paul Regional graduating in 1973. He married Dianne Fay Hohol February 16, 1974. They have one daughter Candace Marie born May 2, 1974. Dianne is the third child of Mr. & Mrs. David Hohol of Two Hills.

Kenneth Arnold was born May 26, 1956 in Two Hills Hospital. He received his First Class Journeyman's Welding Ticket thorugh N.A.I.T. He married Helen Mary Birch September 22, 1979. Helen is the second daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Remmington Birch of Florida, formerly of England. They have one son Kendall William Remmington born March 20th, 1980.

Back row — Left to Right — James & Mavis Haswell: Kenneth & Helen Smith: Candace Dorn & Wayne Smith: Peggy & James Smith: Leon — Dale England: Brian & Catherine Smith: Sharon & Alvin Loyer. Front Row — Krystal Dorn - Candace Smith: William J. Smith: Trevor-Boyd England: Hazel Smith: Kurtis - Kristin Smith: Lance Loyer.

Mavis Alaine Priscilla was born September 12, 1960 in the Two Hills Hospital. She attended school in Two Hills until grade 10, and graduated from M.E. Lazerte, Edmonton, in 1978. She married James Richard Haswell, July 21, 1979. James is the third child of Mr. & Mrs. Richard Emerson Haswell of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. ewan.

On March 12, 1980, Bill was informed that the Two Hills Chemicals plant in Duvernay would cease its operations July 1, 1980.

ARCHIE McLEAN

by Danita Malo

Archie Mclean was born to John and Mary McLean of Lafond on August 17, 1914. He lived and worked in Lafond in the teens and early twenties, working mostly for local farmers. While there, he played music with Alphonse Malo and the Foisy boys, Wilfred and Leo. During this time Archie was an active bronco-rider and attended various rodeos in Saddle Lake, Hi-Lo and St. Paul. In 1942 he began driving the Mail from St. Paul to Two Hills, during which time he met his future bride.

Alaine May Smith was the daughter of Frank and Marguerite Smith of Brosseau. She was born May 12, 1932 and raised on a farm five miles north-east of Brosseau store. When, in 1945, the farm was rented out, the family moved to the hamlet of Brosseau. She met Archie in the spring of 1948 and, he won her heart with his big smile and wonderful sense of humor.

In 1949 Archie and Alaine became man and wife. They moved to St. Paul where their first and only son was born (Neddy Edward). In 1950 they moved to irrigation country, Rolling Hills, Alberta. Here Archie worked for a good friend, Azle Austagard.

The Western Chemicals Plant, in Duvernay, started construction in 1952. Archie, finding irrigation farming too much work, moved back to Brosseau and got a job at the plant. Alaine went to work at the Brosseau Post-Office and store for Mr. Henry Coutu, and later, for Mr. & Mrs. Leo Marceau. In 1954 a daughter, Danita Maureen, was born in the Two Hills Hospital.

In 1955, Archie and his brother-in-law, Wilfred decided to try their hand at farming Laurent Coutu's farm for a while. This did not work out so Archie and Alaine built a little house in Brosseau. Archie got the farming bug, again, so rented Emma Lavallee's land which was situated right behind their lot. Here he grew a crop and, on this lot, had a cow, Blossom, and raised a few pigs. The children went to school from Grades 1-9 in Brosseau. On May 27, 1967 Neddy graduated from the Lafond school.

Neddy became a hockey player. At seventeen he played for the Brosseau Darts. In 1966-1967 he made the St. Paul Canadiens, who won the North-East Alberta Juvenile Hockey Championship. In 1967-1968 he completed his juvenile career with St. Paul and in 1968-69 he played with the Two Hills Eagles. In 1971 he married Sheryl Pawliuk of Two Hills. Neddy and Sheryl have two boys, Dustin and Shawn, and are living in St. Albert, Alberta.

In 1969 Archie had a heart attack and was put on light duty at the plant. In 1970 he had another and was totally disabled to work. In 1971 Archie, Alaine and Danita moved to St. Paul where Alaine found work at Pete's Confectionary and, later, at Cole's Confectionary. In February 1972 Archie had a stroke and was left partially paralyzed, but was determined not to let it get him down and continued to lead an active life. On October 13, 1973 he had another heart attack and passed away October 25.

A short time later Danita met Lionel Malo, of Lafond, while both were working at Henry's Texaco

Archie and Alaine Smith with Neddy (aged 5 years) and Danita (about 2 months) taken in 1954.

Service Station in St. Paul. They were married and now have three children, Lee Cordell, Tia Laureen and Ian McLean. They made their home in St. Paul until November 1978 at which time they went to Lafond to their own house. (They moved the house Archie had built in Brosseau, in 1955 and remodelled it.)

After Archie passed away, Alaine worked in St. Paul for a year and then ventured on to Calgary where she met an old friend, Terrance Thompson, formerly from Rolling Hills. On December 25, 1979 Alaine and Terry were engaged, but no wedding date has yet been set. She makes her home in Calgary, now.

In 1942 — Joe Lacrosse, Frank Smith, Margaret Smith.

In 1942 — Katie Pundick, Margaret Smith, Millie Laderoute, Annie Zawadiuk.

MARGARET ANN LACROSSE

by Marguerite Lacrosse

Margaret Ann nee Smith was born on March 30th, 1924 on the farm five miles north east from Brosseau, Alberta. She went to Mamaestie School which was three miles south east of the farm. She started school in September of 1931 until 1939. Then she stayed home and looked after the younger children. She married Joseph James Lacrosse of St. Paul, Alberta in the Brosseau Catholic Church on June 28th, 1943. They were married by Father Campeau. Then they moved to Calgary, Alberta. Margaret and Joseph Lacrosse have a family of six girls:

First born — Elvena Lynn, December 16th, 1944.

Second born — Joanne Sally, December 23rd, 1945.

Third born — Sharon Marie, February 24th, 1952.

Fourth born — Cindy Lou, August 14th, 1959.

Fifth born — Brenda Lee, December 11th, 1961.

Sixth born — Debra Karen, March 15th, 1968.

In 1942: Top row — Katie Pundick, Margaret Smith, Millie Laderoute, Annie Zawadiuk; Bottom row — Bill Smith, Joe Lacrosse, Sam Daniels, Johnny McLean.

ELVENA LYNN — married Morgan Lewis Parlee of Grande Prairie, Alberta on January 11th, 1962. They have three sons: The oldest is William Franklin, he was born on November 6th, 1962. The second son is Kelvin Douglas, he was born on November 16th, 1964. The youngest is Christoper James, he was born on June 16th, 1966. Elvena and family now live in Clairmont, Alberta.

JOANNE SALLY — married Robert Stanley Town of Castor, Alberta on January 28th, 1967. They have three children: The oldest is Terrance Robert, he was born on September 21st, 1968. Then twin girls were born, Charmaine Margaret and Michelle Joanne, they were born on September 20, 1969. Joanne and Bob now live in Lacombe, Alberta. They own a toy store called Weepels 1979 Ltd.

SHARON MARIE — married Christopher Daniel Wasylenchuk of Edmonton, Alberta on May 31st, 1975. They have two sons: The oldest is Craig Troy, he was born on January 30th, 1971. The youngest is Jason Daniel, he was born on November 13th, 1976. Sharon and family live in Edmonton, Alberta.

Margaret Ann Lacrosse now lives in Calgary, Alberta with her three youngest daughters: Cindy Lou who is 21 years old. Brenda Lee who is 18 years old. And Debra Karen who is 12 years old.

BESSIE LAWRENCE

by Bessie Lawrence

Bessie nee Smith was born on April 16th, 1922 on the farm five miles north east of Brosseau, Alberta. She went to school at Mamaestie, three miles south east from the farm. Started school in the thirty's then went out to work. She worked all over through the country. When she was twenty-one she came to the big city of Calgary. She worked there for a while then went to the Brooks district and worked on a ranch for a year.

In 1940 she married in Brooks. she lived there for five or six years and worked on ranches most of her married life until she moved back to Calgary. She worked in the city. Then she started a boarding house and ran that for about five of six years. She gave that up as a bad policy as she couldn't make anything doing that. After that she went back to work for a while. Now she lives in High River, Alberta and is running an apartment block.

GEORGE SKAKUN

by George Skakun Jr.

Early storekeepers and merchants at Duvernay were the George Skakun family. In 1911 they were beckoned by their relatives to come to Canada to start a new life and face new challenges. So as teenagers they landed on the east coast in 1911 January. George and Kalyna (Salyha) did not know each other at the time of the trip even though they lived a few miles apart near Szypenitz

George Skakun's general store built in Duvernay in 1916, then moved to Two Hills in 1927.

Front row L to R. Annie, Mrs. and Mr. George Skakun, Mary. Back row L to R. George, John and Bill (1952).

Bukovina in the Old Country. Both took the same train to Vegreville where George was met by his Uncle Nick Skakun and Kalyna by her Uncle John Luciak. They stayed with their respective uncles for 2 years near Ispas tilling the soil, chopping wood, threshing, making hay and all the other jobs of the day.

Kalyna's older sister Elizabeth, with whom she had come to Canada, then got married to Mike Onyschuk. The younger sister then went to stay with Elizabeth for 2 years at Ispas, going to dances and weddings of the day where she met George Skakun. After their romance they decided to get married — but first George wanted to go to the mines at Phoenix, B.C. to earn some money which he did. In 1916 they were married at Ispas and bought

out a general store in Duvernay with their brother-in-law Mike Onyschuk from Steve Hrynyk. This lasted a year and a half as it was found that it was not working out. The Skakuns then moved to Kaleland where they opened a general store there and did all their trucking from Vegreville. It was there that Anne and George Jr. were born. After two and one half years Elizabeth called them back to Duvernay as the flu had claimed the life of her husband Mike and she needed a man to help run the store. So they moved back to Duvernay and stayed there till 1927 when the railway came to Two Hills. In Duvernay they had an additional 3 sons and one daughter but they all died in infancy. Finally their son John survived.

Education was a must for them as they went to the Duvernay school till 1927 whereupon they finished their junior and high school at Two Hills. While at Duvernay the two older children played games and mixed well with the predominantly French speaking community and even spoke the language real well as well as going to their church. The parents bartered for grain, poultry and produce from the local populace and made their own clothes from the fabrics at the store. The business thrived well under the stern and firm hands of George. The nearest church for them was the Russian Orthodox 5 miles east at Toporutzi, while the nearest hospital was at Vegreville. The last 2 children, Bill and Mary, were born at Two Hills and all 5 children finished off their High School there.

Anne went off to Alberta College in 1934, George to Hudson's Bay Trading at Fort St. James, B.C., John to the University of Alberta for Education as did Bill for Pharmacy while Mary finished her secretarial school out of Alberta College. Both George and John were in the armed forces and were about to embark overseas when the war ended.

George and Kalyna stayed and ran the store in Two Hills for 38 years till his death and now Kalyna is living in retirement in Kamloops, B.C. near her son Bill.

THE SURETTE FAMILY

Mr. Surette was born in Nova Scotia. After the war he came to Alberta to teach school. He and Cecilia were married in May of 1923. He taught school around Edmonton till 1926, then they came to Brosseau and taught here for a couple of years. They were neighbors with Mrs. St. Hilaire who resided in the village too. Their family consisted of only three when they left Brosseau to go to Edmonton where he worked with the Adjustment Board. They had five children. Mr. Surette passed away in 1952. Mrs. Cecilia Surette is retired in Abbotsford, British Columbia.

LOUIS GEORGE SAULOU

by Marie Hellerud and Charmaine MacDonald

Louis George Saulou was born in Lyon, France, March 19, 1890. He was the only child of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Saulou. While learning his trade of harness and shoe repair, he apprenticed at different towns in France. Then he went on to London, England for a couple of years. In May 1914 he arrived in Halifax, Canada. Louis worked for Hugh Carson, a large saddlery company in Ottawa.

Louis George Saulou and Margaret Gauthier on their wedding day, June 19, 1915.

Louis Saulou, breaking land in 1931, with 8 horses.

He met Margaret Elizabeth Gauthier, second oldest daughter of Joseph and Martina Gauthier, employed in masonry, of Limoges, Ontario. After a short courtship they were married in Ottawa on June 19, 1915. They honeymooned out West, where there was land to be had, along with all the other "Golden Opportunities" available to the ambitious.

They settled on their homestead SE¼ 8-56-12 W4. With determination they bought, cleared and broke by hand the W½ 9-56-12 W4 of C.P.R. land adjoining the homestead.

Mr. Saulou travelled many, many miles every spring, going from farm to farm mending harness for the farmers — his "Patrons" around Brosseau and St. Paul.

Their closest town was St. Paul — 35 miles away — which was quite a distance to travel with a team of

Louis Saulou on his 10-20 Titan Tractor, with Louis, and a visiting nephew from Montreal, Marie and Albert, 1931.

horses. They patronized the local Brosseau store — 4 miles out. These were the times when pigs sold for 3¢ per pound; butter 5 cents a pound and eggs 3¢ a dozen.

To supplement the family income Louis caught and sold fish during the winter months. He travelled by team of horses to different lakes in Northern Alberta such as: Muriel, Pinehurst and Wolf Lake. He endured many hardships during these times.

In 1945 Louis Saulou purchased a Shoe-and-Harness Shop in St. Paul which he operated during the week, coming home on week-ends — often pedalling the bicycle the 35 miles to the farm. During his absence, Mrs. Saulou kept the farm going with the help of their son, Albert.

Louis and Margaret Saulou raised four children.

Louis George, the eldest, was born July 25, 1916. Many times Mrs. Saulou recollected that it rained so hard that summer that it saturated the sod roof. She had to put the baby in a tub and place it under the table to keep him dry. A midwife, Mrs. Grenier, brought Louis George into the world in their farm home.

With the impending birth of a second child, Margaret Saulou returned home to Cornwall, Ontario. Marie Louise was born July 4, 1920 in a hospital in Cornwall.

On September 1, 1922, another midwife, Mrs. Simon, delivered Albert at the farm home at Brosseau.

The youngest, Charmaine Marguerite, interrupted cranberry-jelly making to make her entry into this world. Roseanna Fedoruk, R.N., delivered Charmaine on August 14, 1933 at the farm home.

Not only did Mrs. Saulou have her children delivered at home by a midwife but she, also, was a midwife and delivered a number of babies in the neighborhood. They really depended on their neighbors in time of need.

Since the school was quite a distance from their home, Louis, Marie and Albert were sent to school in Vegreville for their early education. They stayed at a Presbyterian boarding home. Charmaine took some correspondence by mail and also boarded in Bonnyville, Two Hills and St. Paul.

Margaret Saulou passed away in 1955. Louis continued his repair business in St. Paul until his death in 1960.

None of the children reside in the district at present.

The eldest son, Louis George, married Margaret Leeck from Vilna, Alberta. They have a family of two sons and three daughters. There are eight grandchildren. All live in B.C. During the Second World War, Louis George served with the armed forces from 1943-1945. At present he lives in Victoria.

From R. to L. Louis Saulou (father), Louis George, Albert, Marie, Margaret Saulou (mother) and Charmaine, 1936.

Albert Saulou (13) and Charmaine (2) near their home, 1935.

Marie married Gifford Hellerud of Foisy, Alberta. They raised a family of two sons and three daughters and have been blessed with three grandchildren. They make their home in Grande Prairie.

Louis and Margaret Saulou cutting grain with a Massey-6' horse-drawn binder in 1921 with their 2 children, Louis and Marie.

Albert and his wife, Mary (nee Babiuk) bought the family farm in 1949. They lived there and carried the mixed farming operation until 1954, when they sold to Paul-Emile Boulianne and moved near Andrew. At present they are still farming there. They have two sons and three grandchildren. Their eldest son, Alfred, his wife Betty, and their two children, Ryan and Cory, live in Edmonton. The second son, Edwin, his wife Martina, and their daughter, Leizan, live at Calmar, Alberta.

Charmaine married Grant MacDonald of Owlseye, a hamlet near St. Paul, where they operate a dairy farm. They have a family of four boys and two daughters.

REMINISCING BY LOUIS SAULOU JR.

by Louis Saulou Jr.

Louis Saulou filed for a homestead on April 8th, 1916. After improving it he got the title on April 11th, 1921.

I remember that George Emes had a hotel by the river bank on the corner across from the old store. I remember as a kid looking in the door and seeing people standing at the bar drinking. It was an active hotel then, but eventually folded up. It was eventually torn down and the lumber was sold.

Dad was coming over across the ferry with some people from Foisy returning from Vegreville. The cable broke, the ferry broke loose and floated down the river. Some of the passengers put their horses off the drifting ferry so they could swim to shore. Those that had stayed on went down about four miles. It ended up on the river bank. It was tied down. Later 3 or 4 horses had to pull it back to its location. Then again when the water was very low, the ferry wasn't able to operate. Even before the ferry came there were days when they used to ford the river at the point of Ambrose Gray's farm one mile from Brosseau.

The first year I attended school in Vegreville mom came up to get me at Easter time. The ice had melted from the shore. It was about 12 to 15 feet wide. We'd drive across this water which was about two feet deep, get on the ice and back in to the water again early in the morning. Many years of travel would be halted for one week or ten days when the ice was melting.

Most people went to Vegreville from Brosseau, a distance of 36 miles, but some went to St. Paul about 30 miles away. Anyone who went to Vegreville used to stop at Ben's Lake which was the half way point, Ed Smith's place. On the other hand when we went to St. Paul we used to stop at this point. There was a fellow who used to make moonshine. One day I was about five years old, dad and I had stopped. I remember dad going to the house and asking this man "if there was something wrong with his horses, they were acting awfully strange, they must be dead". This man went out to look at them, "Oh no they got into my mash", he replied. The horses had knocked the cover off the hidden mash and drank some of it. They got intoxicated and were pretty sick lying in the sun. They had to cover the horses with straw so they wouldn't get a sun stroke; they wouldn't even get up they were so drunk. I remember just like it happened yesterday, The chicken had got into the mash also. He hollered at my dad, "Hey, Louis look at those roosters"; here they were jumping around having a whale of a time; they couldn't even walk, they were really intoxicated.

In the early days every livery barn had a bunk-house; we'd take our bed roll and oats for the horses. The fee was 50¢ a night; they'd supply the hay. Stay overnight and then go about your business.

After 1927 to 1936 Rene Grenier used to deliver the mail from St. Paul to Two Hills. In the winter he'd travel to St. Paul by bob-sled, pick up the mail. Then come back to his place, change horses, go on to Two Hills and return; he did this every two days, three times a week. The train would come to Two Hills three times a week. We'd go for our mail at Brosseau three times a week also. In summer a truck would be used.

Mr. Molsan had a chopping mill at Duvernay. He had a one cylinder gasoline engine. I can still remember hearing that mill banging away across the river when he was crushing the farmer's grain.

Albert Barnes had the old dance hall. The orchestra consisted of Ernest Didier and two or three Chorney boys.

I used to visit the Bigland boys often. There was an old dredge about 300 yards down the river on the Duvernay side. They had dared me to dive off saying that the water wasn't deep. I did and I darned near drowned as the water was about four feet above my head. Did I ever have to swim for my life.

One June, old George Emes swam across the river on a bet; he did it too. Another time the Bigland boys paddled across the river on a little raft made of two pieces of piling six inches thick, fourteen inches wide and ten feet long nailed together with slats.

Some people used to stop at Marc Girard's farm overnight on their way to Vegreville from St. Paul. He said they could stay overnight but the only available water was ½ a mile from the farm at the lake. A gentleman from Southern Alberta found this hard to believe. The next morning he showed Mr. Girard where to dig a well close to the house. In the summer Marc did this and found water. He had dug many wells before by hand without success.

The Bigland boys and I used to race our bikes from the top of the hill starting from the cemetery and across the bridge. We'd coast down the hill reaching the bridge at about 60 miles an hour. I would go so fast that I would lose my breath. One time I can remember putting the brakes on after crossing the bridge. I picked up my bike to turn it around and the wheel fell off. When I think of that I could just about died right in my tracks; that was dangerous.

I also remember the bridge springing about six inches when trotting across the bridge with a team of horses.

In 1929, Wop May the pilot and two companions came out from Edmonton to hunt ducks. That year there were thousands of ducks. After four days hunting they had a three ton Ford over ½ full of ducks, which they gave to the orphanage and needy people in Edmonton. I saw that load of ducks.

Dad was threshing with an old Titan, three team thresher at Mr. Boyko's farm on the south shore of Little Fish Lake. About nine in the morning he sent me home for oil, grease and to help mom with the chores. I went out to the lake, there were 4 of the biggest ducks I had ever seen all in a row. So I let go with 2 barrels, boy I just about upset myself backside over the tea kettle, anyway four dead ducks. I walked out of the ooye put the gun on dry land. I walked right back in the ooye up to my chest. I retrieved those four ducks, the biggest ducks I had ever seen. I went to the farm house, I said, "Look, Mrs. Boyko I shot four ducks, I'll give you two for the men's supper". I hadn't realized I had shot her tame ducks, boy was she ever angry. I told my dad and he thought it was pretty funny. In those days threshing had to be done early as the wild ducks would eat all the grain in the stooks.

Allen Smith and I used to go coyote hunting on horseback with three hounds up to the reserve getting three or four animals. We'd shoot them with a 30-30 rifle, and get $4 to $5 a hide. We'd take a lunch and if we went too far we'd have to hunt game. We'd roast a rabbit or a couple of prairie chickens over the fire.

Albert and Marie were going to school in Vegreville. I decided I'd go and get them for the Christmas holidays. I left home at 6 a.m. on a cold and frosty morning. I arrived at Ben's Lake about 2:30 in the afternoon. It was so cold. This was half way to Vegreville. The roads were drifted, we'd go from Two Hills over the lakes and cross over to Ben's Lake, stop for dinner. It was bitter cold and the horses were tired. I came within eight miles of Vegreville. I stopped at a German family's place, they took me in, looked after the horses and gave me a hot supper and I stayed overnight.The next day I went into Vegreville picked up Albert and Marie. The weather was better now so we travelled as far as Ben's Lake and stayed over. The next day we arrived at home. In all the times I had driven this was one of the coldest trips I had to make. After the war in 1946 I made the same trip in a 1937 Ford car in 45 minutes. When I think of that I could cry.

The Dirty 30's

I was about sixteen years, in 1927, an influx of immigrants came from overseas. I'd say about one quarter million. Most were employed in labour work. The C.P.R. hired most of the men from the Balkan countries. The fall of 1929 the depression started. People lost millions of dollars, everything went down to rock bottom. I knew of a fellow who had 50,000 bushels of wheat which was priced at close to $1.50 a bushel, it was sold for 20 cents a bushel.

A lot of people were riding the trains. It was against the law; if you were caught you'd be put in jail. Many well to do men were also riding the rails looking for any kind of work. Butter was as low as 10¢ a lb.; 25 loaves of bread for $1.00; eggs 5¢ a dozen.

I remember mom giving me a couple dozen of eggs to sell for a treat and I went to the Brosseau local store and bought 5¢ worth of jelly beans, 5¢ of biscuits and 5¢ of peppermints. 1/15 of a pound of tobacco sold for 10¢ cigarette papers included. Three big boxes of Eddy's matches sold for 20¢. Milk was 12 quarts for $1.00. Twenty-five dollars for a real good horse. The govenrment would pay $10. to you if you would hire someone from the city to work for you in the winter. Housework $10. a month including room and board. I bought a 1931 model T Ford for $45.00. I didn't have to get a driver's license either.

In 1931 or 32 I took six pigs to Hairy Hill for my parents, a distance of eighteen miles. I got $4.50 a piece, $27.00 for six grade A hogs, they had to be A's to get the top price.

I remember the locusts just like clouds overhead. They'd eat all the crops and leave the roads very slippery. The caterpillars were so bad too. They just climbed over anything in their path. In fact they were so bad a train was derailed.

I was seeding in a dust storm; it was so bad that I ended up in the middle of the field instead of ending up in the row. I could see the storm cloud come from miles.

In 1931, I was going to school and day after day I'd see racks loaded down with machinery, a couple of cows tethered to the back, moving up north to homestead. They had to let their land go for taxes down South.

In 1930, my mother sold a real good cow for $100.00. With the money she bought a console radio. In 1933, in a Calgary restaurant a meal of soup, three slices of bread and butter, sausage or hamburger, potatoes, vegetables, pie and coffee cost 20¢. A hair cut 15¢. We'd trap squirrels and get 2¢ a pelt, coyote hides fetched about $3.00, muskrat skins for $1.00, rabbit fur 5 cents each. It would cost $1.00 an hour to have a man come in and saw wood. We threshed wheat for 6 cents, barley for 5¢, oats for 4¢. When I was sixteen years old I ran a tractor and threshing machine and made about $1.50 a day.

We had an engine at home that was so big I couldn't crank it by myself, I had to get someone to help me. I was sixteen then.

A matinee show was 10¢, an evening show was 20¢. I went to one show in a year. Pop was 5¢ a bottle, peanuts were 10¢ a pound. We'd go to a dance eight to ten miles, take a lunch with us to eat at the dance. We'd return for home at 3 A.M. If it was very cold we'd walk most of the way to keep warm.

We'd clear a piece of ground, flood it. By December 1st we had good ice for hockey games. In the summer we held our own rodeo. There were lots of picnics, every little village had a picnic and ball game. I don't remember what beer sold for probably $1.00 but a 12 ounce bottle of damn good moonshine was 25¢.

We managed to survive because we put in our own big garden, canned the produce, had cattle and hogs, also hunted deer and moose. I remember dad running up a credit of $20.00 from Christmas till fall. That was a lot of money in those days and that would be just for the essentials.

Prior to 1920 my parents had a team of horses, a walking plow, sleigh and buggy starting from scratch. My dad used to make all his harness and do his own building. We were very fortunate, Southern Alberta, most of central and southern Saskatchewan and also Manitoba didn't fare out as well.

In 1936 things picked up some, wheat was $1.00 a bushel.

There was a family who lived a few miles from school. They had two boys. Every second day one of them would be absent. This went on for three weeks. The teacher reported this instance to the school inspector. He discovered there was only enough clothes to dress the one child only. The temperature would be about 30 to 40 below.

JOSEPH ROBERT TOMLINSON

by J.R. Tomlinson

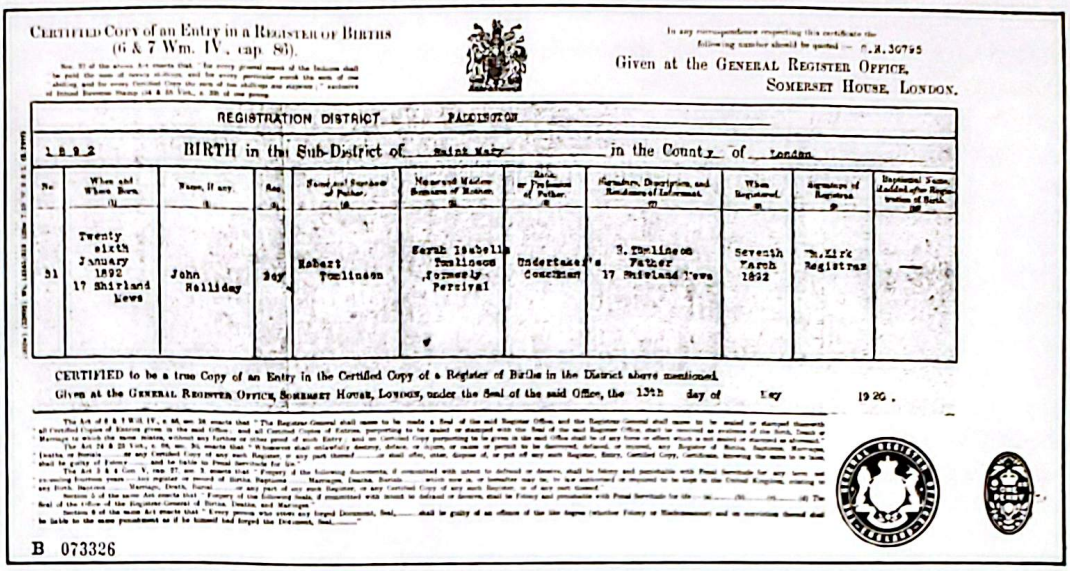
London, England was the birthplace of J.R. Tomlinson, but he was given the name Joseph Robert, when he was born, September 7, 1890. His father ran the "Black Business" — undertaker's coachman in London. He was Robert Tomlinson and his wife, Sarah Isabella Percival.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Tomlinson with Joseph on the left and Jack at the top, 1895.

Life was not too pleasant for J.R. at home so he planned to leave England. His mother had made a lucky bet on the "Derby" in 1906 and paid his passage to Canada. He crossed on the "Acadian" — a ship belonging to the Cunard Steamship Lines.

A farmer in MacAuley, Manitoba had advertised for an English lad to work with horses, and J.R. was fortunate enough to be hired. Later he moved to Edmonton and went into construction, building stations for the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, with wheel-barrows, pick and shovel. At this time he had also filed on a homestead on Little Fish Lake (now called Brosseau

Nellie and Joseph Tomlinson in St. Paul after retirement, 1971.



CERTIFIED COPY of an Entry in a REGISTER OF BIRTHS (6 & 7 Wm. IV., cap. 86).

Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, SOMERSET HOUSE, LONDON.

REGISTRATION DISTRICT PADDINGTON

1892 BIRTH in the Sub-District of Saint Mary in the County of London

No.	When and Where Born	Name, if any	Sex	Name and Surname of Father	Name and Maiden Surname of Mother	Rank or Profession of Father	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant	When Registered	Signature of Registrar	Baptismal Name, if added after Registration of Birth
31	Twenty sixth January 1892 17 Shirland Mews	John Holliday	Boy	Robert Tomlinson	Sarah Isabella Tomlinson formerly Percival	Undertaker's Foreman	S. Tomlinson Father 17 Shirland Mews	Seventh March 1892	The Kirk Registrar	—

CERTIFIED to be a true Copy of an Entry in the Certified Copy of a Register of Births in the District above mentioned. Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, SOMERSET HOUSE, LONDON, under the Seal of the said Office, the 13th day of May 1926.

B 073326

Lake), next to P.A. Coutu's farm. He forgot that improvements were supposed to be made within a specified time and he had not done them, so he lost it. He kept on working for the railroad through Tête Jaune B.C. and on to Vancouver.

When the First World War broke out Joseph volunteered in the Peace Corps and then, with the 19th Alberta Dragoons went to England, February 1915. In August 1915 he married Ellen Nellie Lee. Then he went to France and in 1916 he received an abdominal wound in the Battle of the Somme. At that time surgery for such a wound was practically unknown but the Medical Corps did the best they could. Twice the French authorities declared him dead, but fortunately these reports were disproved. He recovered due to his strong physical condition but it took two years.

On his discharge from the Army in 1918, Mr. & Mrs. Tomlinson lived in Strathcona while he worked in the main post-office in Edmonton. Then through the Soldier Settlement Board he obtained NW¼ 32-56-11-W4th, near present day Foisy post-office, and went farming. He was a breeder of Shorthorn cattle and Yorkshire and Hampshire hogs.

Joseph sold his farm in 1971 and retired in St. Paul where he had bought a house. At Christmas time 1972 Nellie was crossing the street by the IGA store when she was struck by a skidding bus and was killed.

On June 1, 1974, Joseph Tomlinson married Ada Lucille Chapman (nee Moran) who had come from England in 1924. Her husband had been a butcher at the St. Paul Co-Op before his death and had been good friends of the Tomlinson's from "way back." Joseph and Ada are happy in their little home in St. Paul. Joseph still likes gardening, including the cultivation of strawberries, and fruit trees.

Mr. Joseph R. Tomlinson led a constructive public life:

Councillor of the Champlain M.D.
Director of the Agricultural Society, president and chairman for 25 years
North East Alberta Co-Op, director for 30 years
Alberta Livestock Association (Edmonton) director for 20 years
St. Paul Co-Op, director for 30 years
Farmer's Union of Alberta, member
Wheat Pool, member

Mr. Tomlinson's biggest interest throughout his life has been his country, his community and Man's World in general.

Mr. Joseph Tomlinson leading stock parade at the St. Paul Fair, July 29 - 30, 1954. Monarch's Pride, 3 years old Shorthorn bull, 1st and Champion Shorthorn bull at the fair. Followed by Lady Orange Blossom, 1st Shorthorn Cow, Lady's bull calf, 4 months old, 2nd prize at rear, Marigold Beauty, 2nd prize cow, behind Lady.

ROBERT (BOB) TOMLINSON

by Lucia Robinson

Bob's father, John Holliday Tomlinson, was born January 26, 1892, and married Rose Wintel, before coming to Canada at his brother Joseph Robert's invitation. When Bob was born May 23, 1922, Mr. and Mrs. J.R. Tomlinson became his foster parents.

Mr. and Mrs. J.R. Tomlinson, Foster parents, taken at Mr. and Mrs. Alex Yettaw's Sixty Year Anniversary, 1961.

In 1930, at eight years of age, Bob began attending Big Fish Lake School, where Miss Lucile Gagne was the teacher. In the fall of 1936, he contacted whooping cough and was sick all winter. In the spring he had reached the age when he could legally leave school, so he never resumed his classes.

Bob went farming, using horses, from 1937-1948 when he began using power machinery, but, Bob still uses his horses for many of the chores around the farm.

The three generations: Joseph Robert Tomlinson — grandfather Robert J. Tomlinson holding his son Albert, Cecile Tomlinson holding Morris, Mrs. Nellie Tomlinson.

On November 19, 1945 Bob Tomlinson married Cecile, daughter of Phileas Jean and Marie Jeanne Dumont, in St. Paul. They had a wedding dinner at her home and a wedding supper at his father's home. The wedding dance was held in the Legion Hall in St. Paul, followed by a lunch at her place. The wedding festivities lasted all night. The following morning, Bob and Cecile were leaving, by train, for their honeymoon. The musicians Frank Gordey, Oscar Missel, Past Willar followed them to the station and played until the train disappeared along the track.

On their return, they settled on SE¼ 5-57-11-W4th where there was only a log shack and a barn. Bob moved the house and remodelled it. He also improved the

Robert Tomlinson and his bride Cecile Jean November 19, 1945.

farmstead with more buildings so that he could raise chickens, hogs, sheep and horses. They have always worked on the same farm, never taking a holiday.

Bob and Cecile have five children:

Albert — born October 14, 1946, married November 30, 1968, has four children and is a labourer.

Morris Robert — born February 15, 1949, married Septmber 2, 1972, has two children and is District Manager Oil Pump Industry.

Charles Gerald — born September 15, 1953, married August 23, 1975, carpenter.

Joseph Bernard — born December 21, 1957, Serviceman for Oil Pump Industry.

Robert Lawrence — born December 21, 1959, Welder.

Bob has been involved in 4H clubs, curling and hockey. He has been a school bus driver for years.

Bob's father, John Holliday Tomlinson, died Augsut 7, 1961 and his mother, Rose Tomlinson on January 14, 1980. They are buried in Langley, B.C.

His foster mother Mrs. Nellie died December 9, 1972. His foster father is in St. Paul where he has retired.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH THERIEN FAMILY

by Katherine Therien

My father, Francis Napoleon Therrien, was born August 4, 1867 in Richmond, Vermount, U.S.A. In early childhood his parents migrated to Canada, settling in Compton, Quebec, a hamlet a few miles from Sherbrooke. Shortly afterward, he fell victim of a crippling fever that left him handicapped for life. Bilingually educated in St. Charles Borromée College, Sherbrooke, he obtained a commercial certificate in accounting bookkeeping as well as a teaching certificate. Later, he took a course in dairying. In January 1900 he married

Mr. Frank Therien taking over the housework after his wife took sick, 1936.

Kate Foye, a local school teacher. Together they established a home in Waterville, Quebec, where he operated a creamery until 1910 when he decided to move to Alberta, lured by the popular slogan of the day, "Go West, young man, Go West." This fires his imagination, aroused his pioneering spirit, motivated his desire to explore far horizons and as he often said, "feel the freedom of wide opens paces." Another more rational reason was his doctor's advice that he should seek a drier climate because of a bronchial condition. The family, my mother, my brother Edward, and I joined him in 1912 and set up permanent residence in Alberta. In Duvernay, he built a creamery on the brow of the hill overlooking the Saskatchewan River. He undertook to establish an organization — that today would be a co-operative — in which farmers agreed to produce predetermined quantities of cream, sufficient to assure a profitable industry. It was a project way ahead of its time, ideally conceived but with unobtainable expectations and requiring impossible demands of farmers as well as himself. Every week, my father, with a team and democrat travelled over impassable roads in all kinds of weather gathering cream from farmers in the communities of Lafond, St. Edouard and Beauvallon. Often he was away two and three days because of rain or other difficulties. The project proved to be impractical largely because farmers could not meet their commitments. The dairy season was too short — late spring and summer to early fall. Getting the cream to the creamery was a problem, delivering the butter to market in Vegreville another, especially in summer weather — no refrigeration and slow transportation. The creamery closed in the fall of 1913.

Father then took up farming and cattle ranching remaining in the Duvernay district until 1925.

After my graduation from Camrose Normal School in 1925, we moved to St. Vincent, Alberta, where I had accepted a position as a primary teacher. The following years found us living in various communities: Fort Kent, Plamondon, Vimy. In 1944 I joined the staff of the Edmonton Catholic Schools and we moved to Edmonton. Father died in 1946 at the age of 79.

My mother died at the age of 97. During all those years she served many communities well. Her early years in Alberta were especially productive. On different occasions she accepted to teach in local schools when teachers were in short supply. In the summer of 1913 she taught for some months in the Champlain School. Every morning we were off driving Maud, our faithful cayuse, often in the rain and mud to the axles, negotiating "la côte croche" hurrying to be on time and dreading the return trip in the evening. It was a grueling experience. Mother had a great love for children, the opportunity to help advance their education was reward enough. She willingly acepted all discomforts for their sake. On different occasions she took over teaching duties in the Duvernay school. It was a more pleasant experience. We lived close enough so we would walk across the prairie enjoying the chirping of the gophers and the unexpected appearance of a new bird or flower. Even today, she is fondly remembered by her former students, my contemporaries. Also, Mother was a moving force in the parish community. Her organizational abilities and dramatic talents were put to good use. She helped organize card parties, church picnics and concerts. Often these dramatic productions were repeated in the neighboring parishes and always were received with enthusiasm and appreciation by the audience.

My childhood memories are many and still fondly remembered. The Saskatchewan River had a particular charm and fascination. There was the ferry plying to and fro often carrying strange cargo. I loved to sit on the river bank watching the flow of the current and listening to the singing hum of the cable; the early summer high water carrying in its current debris and surprises of all sorts, the spring break-ups and mid-November ice floes all remain vividly etched in my memory enhanced with the passing of time.

(1) Mrs. Annie Hardy (Doctor Hardy's wife); (2) Mrs. Eva Vincent (J.B. Vincent's wife); (3) Mrs. Kate Therrien (Frank Therrien's wife) taken during the final act of a comedy "Les Secrets de le Baronne" presented to the public in the St. Laurent Church around 1915.

One favorite memory probably worth relating happened one November afternoon as I returned home from school. I found the ferry had been safely moored for the winter, the ice floes moved thick and fast. I was stranded. Soon my father and Père Basil appeared in a row boat. Père Basil at the oars, my father at the fore clearing away the floes with a long pole. I embarked, completely confident in the prowess of these two stalwart men, who, in unison, guided the frail little boat safely back to the

Summer vacations at Lake St. Vincent. Mr. Therien and Forentine Belisle.

shore. A few days later, Mother was to relate how one morning looking out the creamery window she watched her little daughter, muffled, long dark braids flying in the breeze, with the three-pound lard pail for lunch in one hand and books in the other, keeping step with Père Basil as gingerly he made his way across the new formed ice testing with a cane to see if the ice would be thick and strong enough to allow the crossing of stranded freighters waiting to be on their way to Vegreville for supplies or returning home to the north with their cargo. We crossed safely and once again I was on my way to school. Père Basil Theroux, ferryman, with his flowing white beard and ageless physique remains for me and for many, I'm sure, a great romantic figure epitomizing the courage, hardship and glamour of those early pioneer days.

In 1923, following my graduation from St. Martin's Catholic School in Vegreville I accepted to teach in the St. Laurent School, Brosseau, and so the school where I had received my early education became the scene of my first teaching assignment, the beginning of a career that was to span the next fifty years.

Mrs. Therien and her horse around 1914.

At the time of my retirement in 1972, the Edmonton Catholic School Board graciously decided to name a school in the new Castledown Subdivision of Edmonton, the "Katherine Therien School," thus perpetuating the family name. This is an honor I humbly and modestly accepted, one richly deserved by my Father and my Mother for the worthwhile contributions they made in fostering the educational, cultural and religious activities so necessary during the early development of a new land in Alberta, Canada.

PETER TASCHUK

by Bill Taschuk

On July 29, 1887, Peter Taschuk was born in Czernowitz, in the province of Bukowina, Austria and took his education in Mamaestie, Bukowina. Then, in 1901, the family sailed from Hamburg, Germany, to Halifax, Canada, a trip of 15 days on a cargo-freighter; by train to Strathcona and on to Bellis Alberta. From there, in 1906, he moved to a homestead on NE¼ 32-55-11-W4th. He went to work for farmers in the Edmonton area for $4.00 a month.

Peter and Martha Taschuk on the homestead in 1936 at Brosseau, with all the fruit trees in bloom.

On September 21, 1911, Peter married Martha Goyuk at the St. Demetrius Greek Catholic Church of Soda Lake, Alberta. Martha was born July 10, 1893, in Bukowina Shepenitz, Austria, came to Canada in 1910, arriving in Quebec, and then to Soda Lake where she lived at Anton Kereliuk's place for one year before her marriage to Peter Taschuk. Then they began their new life together on NE¼ 6-56-11-W4th.

During the summer months, Peter worked for the farmers of the district, one of them being P. Albert Coutu. He farmed with oxen until 1915, when he purchased a team of horses from Mr. Edmond Brosseau Sr. He sold eight head of cattle to enable him to buy "one" team. In 1918 he built a new house on the farm. In 1936 he sold eight hogs for $137.00. In 1936 he bought a bicycle for his boys, a "Glider Model" for $26.15.

The Peter Taschuk homestead taken from the air in 1953.

Peter worked with horses until 1939 when he acquired his first tractor, a W30 McCormick-Deering. In 1941 he purchased a 28" McCormick-Deering separator and in 1943 he bought his first truck, Dodge ½ ton. On July 10, 1946, a major hailstorm demolished the crop.

In February, 1952 Peter and Martha Taschuk retired in St. Paul leaving the farm to their son, Bill, who had been working it since he had left school in 1943. Town life did not agree with them so they moved back to the farm to be with Bill.

Mr. Peter Taschuk passed away in Brosseau in 1952 and Mrs. Martha Taschuk on March 11, 1980 at the Two Hills Hospital. Both are buried in the Ardon Evangelical Cemetery in Brosseau.

Peter and Martha Taschuk had ten children:
The first daughter was born 1912 and passed away at 3 months of age.

Peter and Martha Taschuk with a flock of turkeys in front of the barn built in 1928 at Brosseau. This barn was destroyed by fire in 1977. Taken in 1950.

Ruth, born 1913 at home, midwife was Mrs. George Harasym
Jennie, born November 12, 1914 at home, midwife Mrs. Metro Nickolaichuk, married 1. Bill Taschuk, 2. Stanley Kalinsky.
Mary, born September 18, 1916 at home, midwife Mrs. Mike Twerdy.
Metro, born January 19, 1918, passed away February 15, 1948.
Alex, born August 20, 1921 at home, midwife Mrs. Skakun.
Rose born July 21, 1923, married Robert Mackie from Vernon B.C.
Annie, born September 9, 1925, born at Brosseau (Mrs. John J. Plaska).
Bill, born February 15, 1928 with Mrs. Skakun as midwife.
Nick, born February 16, 1931 in the Vegreville General Hospital.

BILL TASCHUK

by Bill Taschuk

On February 15, 1928 Bill Taschuk, son of Peter and Martha Taschuk, was born at Brosseau, Alberta. He attended Mamaestie School (walking 1½ miles) from Setpember 1935 to June 1943. His teachers were William Cherniawsky for 2 years, Peter Sherstianka for 3 years and Metro Nickolaichuk for the last 3 years.

After finishing school, Bill went farming full time with his father. From 1948 Bill was running the thresher (separator) for an average of 30 days every fall.

On December 7, 1951, Bill was married to Mary Bodnar at the Vegreville United Church by Reverend G.B. Mather. Their honeymoon was spent on the farm NE¼ 6-56-12-W4th.

Mary, the daughter of John and Elsie Bodnar of Brosseau, was born at Home in Brosseau, August 28, 1935, with Mrs. Rosychuk as midwife. In 1941 she

Bill Taschuk's family 1977, L to R: Larry & Linda Taschuk, Jerry and Debbie Taschuk, Mary and Bill Taschuk, Patricia and Leonard Ewanishan, Kevin is standing in front of Bill.

attended Mamaestie School, with Metro Rogalsky as teacher, for 3 years. In 1944 John and Elsie Bodnar moved to Shepenitz NW¼ 14-55-13-W4th and Mary continued her schooling there, where Mrs. Alex Stogre and John Chepeha were teaching at the Shepenitz School. In July 1946 Mr. & Mrs. John Bodnar moved back to Brosseau on SW¼ 17-56-12-W4th and Mary rode the bus to the Two Hills School. The first one was an I.H.C. panel driven by John Oneschuk and then by Peter Stoski. In Mary's last year at school, she rode in a new 42-passenger bus driven by Mr. Ewoniuk. Her teachers in Two Hills were: Mrs. Michael Ponich, Mrs. Alice Melnyk and Nick Hauca. In 1949 Mary felt she had enough schooling and stayed home with her parents until, in 1951, she became the bride of Bill Taschuk.

After their marriage Bill and Mary went to live with his parents on the farm. In 1952 Bill bought his first tractor — a brand new I.H.C. Farmall M Diesel on rubber, which was quite a tractor in those days.

In 1953, Bill became a director on Champlain Rural Electrification Association so that power could be brought to the area by Canadian Utilities Ltd. He has held this position since except for a spell from 1965 to 1976. At present he is president. In 1954 the power was brought to his farmstead.

In 1953 Bill and Mary splurged on a new car, a Chev Bel-Air, for the sum of $2600.00. One year later he purchased an I.H.C. model 45 Baler to ease the haying operations on his farm and to custom bale at 7¢ a bale. Twine was $12.00 a bag. To make harvest easier, in 1956 Bill bought a new C.C.I.L. Combine for $4800.00. Again he did custom work for his neighbors at $4.00 an acre, plus $1.00 per acre for swathing.

In 1958, Bill became a director of the Brosseau Mutual Telephone Company, to organize the phone service in the area.

Bill and Mary had a new house built in 1962 with all the conveniences, to enjoy modern living on a farm. And then to make travel a little better, they bought a new Meteor car for $3800.00, in 1966. Bill really believed in improving his life-style and in lessening the tediousness of farming, so, in 1967 he acquired a Minneapolis 1000 of 115 horsepower, hoping it would last a long time. Also, in 1968 he purchased a 410 Massey Harris Combine with cab, to eliminate the dust which was giving him problems. Again, in 1972, the Minneapolis tractor was too small so he got a John Deere 4320 with cab. In 1974 fall came early and half of Bill's crop was snowed under, to be threshed the following spring with a 25% loss in yield.

Aerial photo of Bill Taschuk's farmstead in 1977.

Misfortune struck Bill and Mary when on August 28, 1976, lightning struck the barn his father had built in 1928, burning it to the ground, along with some pigs. That same year Bill replaced it.

In February Bill and Mary finally went on a long-delayed honeymoon to Hawaii for two weeks. They were in a group comprised of: Florence and Walter Kolisniak, Bob and Rose Mercier, Jack and Olga Bromlee. This was a well-earned vaction for them.

A steel shop 102′ x 50′ was erected in 1979 to store all the expensive equipment Bill owns, something that would have been so useful years ago.

Bill is now a big-time farmer owning:

1 — NW¼ 5-56-11-W4th, handed down from his father
2 — NE¼ 6-56-11-W4th, and NE¼ 5-56-11-W4th, pruchased from his mother
3 — S½ 8-56-11-W4th, bought from Metro Nickolaichuk in 1959
4 — SW¼ 5-56-11-W4th, from Metro Sherstan.

Bill and Mary run a successful mixed farming operation on 800 acres of land.

Their first daughter, Patricia Darlene, was born March 1, 1954 in the Two Hills Hospital with Dr. P.P. Kaye attending. She attended University for four years for her D.H.E. On July 26, 1975 she married Leonard Ewanishan in the Two Hills Greek Catholic Church with Reverend Lytwin officiating. Their honeymoon was spent in Europe.

The first son born to Bill and Mary is Larry William, born February 9, 1955 in the Two Hills Hospital, with Dr. M.E. Chonko assisting. He married Linda Elkow and is a civil engineer in Calgary.

The second son, Jerry Peter was born in the Two Hills Hospital May 6, 1958. He married Debbie Harbarenko, August 6, 1977 at the Two Hills United Church and they honeymooned at Radium Hot Springs. He is employed by Bil-Mac Construction of Two Hills. Their son, Ryan William Paul, and first grandson for Bill and Mary was born August 1, 1979.

Number three son was born, in Two Hills also, on July 27, 1968. Kevin Curtis is still attending the Two Hills School.

ALEX TASCHUK

by Robert Bachelet

Alex was the first son of Peter and Martha Taschuk, born August 20, 1920.

In 1927 he started school in Mamaestie and finished in 1934 with Grade 8. He remembers his teachers, William Cherniawsky and William Sterrah and the inspector Leon Gibeau.

L. to R. Frances, Alex, Lilliane, Jim, Anne (mother), Ron, Harvey with Alex (father) in 1958 at home.

After he left school he went farming with his father on NE¼ 6-56-11 W4. In 1937 Alex, with his Chev car motor, supplemented his income by sawing wood and making chop for his neighbors.

On October 17, 1940 Alex married Anne Taschuk of Glendon, Alberta. She was the daughter of John and Dominika Taschuk of Rife, born October 25, 1919. She attended school at Chicken Lake from 1926-1934 finishing Grade 6, since she had to stay home on the farm where there was so much work to be done. School was considered to be secondary in those days. Then she went to work for George Destrube, doing housework and some outside chores for two years. In 1936 she left the farm work to try her hand at Duclos Hospital in Bonnyville and she remained there for three years. Then she milked 10 cows and did housework for Paul Sally, north of Bonnyville and on to Edmonton for six months. She returned to work at the Duclos Hospital until she married Alex in 1940.

After their marriage Alex and Anne went to live on NW¼ 6-56-11 W4. On December 12, 1941 their first child, Lilliane, was born at home with Alex's mother the midwife. Their first son, Jim, was born November 19, 1943 in Vegreville Hospital. A second daughter, Frances, was born November 24, 1944 in Vegreville. The second son, Ron, arrived in the Two Hills Hospital on September 25, 1948 and then, Harvey, on January 19, 1955.

In the winter of 1942-43 Alex went to Nelson, B.C. to work in the zinc mines, at $45.00 per week, plus a bonus on the amount mined.

Two years of hail in 1946 and 1947 forced Alex to go trucking to supplement his income, buying a 3-ton Fargo, to go hauling gravel. He also ran a threshing crew from 1938 to 1948. He trucked until 1958 and during this time acquired five different trucks. He hauled a good portion of the materials for C.H. Whitham who was the contractor building the Western Chemicals Plant at Duvernay. He hauled from the railway cars in Two Hills until the C.P.R. built their spur to the plant site.

Duclos Hospital Staff 1939. L to R - Donald High (janitor), Miss C . Mrs. Shipley (matron), Misses Gould, Weir, Craig, Helen Kuzik. Back row - Clara Klementowich, Grant — (milkman), Anne Taschuk, John Swift (administrator of hospital).

In 1964 Alex undertook to break 500 acres of virgin soil on Saddle lake Indian Reservation, with a wheeled tractor and heavy disks. Miskiw and Bachinsky Contractors of Two Hills had done the brushing. Alex gave ⅓ of the crop to the band. In 1966 he undertook another 300 acres but this time the first crop was all his, as the cost of breaking was too high. Alex continued to farm this land until 1974.

Straight combining wheat on the Alex Taschuk farm - NW¼ 3-56-12-W4 in 1949. Left Combine — Andy Melnychuk. Truck — Alex Taschuk. Right combine — John S. Chrapko. Note high hoppers, as it was gravity unloading. Straight combining was rare in those days. Wheat was running 20 bushels per acre.

In the winter of 1954-55 Alex, being an avid hunter, killed 112 coyotes. They were worth nothing so, in April 1955, he hauled them to the gas well that was burning on Joe Brosseau's farm - NE¼ 35-56-12 W4. He watched his winter's sport go up in flames.

In 1968 Alex went up the Athabasca River from Fort McMurray, by boat, with Ralph Steinhauer and Gary Pollock, to Fort Smith. On the way back Alex and Ralph were the navigators, making this a 2-week holiday.

In 1967 Alex was asked to go to Wood Buffalo National Park to help shoot buffalo for Expo in Montreal. 300 buffaloes were slaughtered in one week. Alex was flown back to Fort McMurray and home again.

From 1967 to 1972 Alex was commercial fishing on Cold Lake, Muriel Lake, Moose Lake, Spencer Lake, Fork Lake to mention only a few.

Alex and Anne ended their farming career in the spring of 1976, selling the land to Percy Thompson, and moving to Two Hills where they built their own home. In February of 1977 then went on their first honeymoon to Hawaii for two weeks — a well earned holiday. On their return Alex got restless so went back trucking for Bil-Mac Construction and Oilfield Maintenance — a job he still holds.

Alex, being absent trucking or fishing, always had hired help on the farm. To name a few: John Popowich, Harry Taschuk (Anne's brother), George Michailyk, Andy Sorochan, Wilfred Smith, Metro Taschuk (Anne's brother), Marshall (Moose) Elkow, Nick Taschuk (Cousin of Anne's). Frank Cardinal and Arthur Emes commercial fished with him. The longest time employee was Nick Snihur who worked for approximately 12 years.

Alex and Anne raised a lot of turkeys (4700 in 1961). L. to R. Armand Lamothe, Anne Taschuk, Harvey Taschuk, Frances Taschuk, Ronnie Taschuk, Marcel Belzil (the hatching operator) and Alex. 1963 was the last year as Alex had expanded his grain operations.

Alex was an ardent hunter, always getting his share of moose and deer but not so lucky with elk, although he has been able to get a few.

Alex and Anne's children have all grown up and gone. Jim married Iris Danyluk and has three boys; Allen, Randy, Andy, and one girl Kim Rose. Ron married Linda Enger from Cold Lake and has two girls, Tanya and Karen. Lilliane is employed in McMurray, Alberta. Frances is a Registered Nursing Assistant at the University Hospital, Edmonton. Harvey works in the main post-office in Edmonton and is still single.

THE THÉROUX FAMILY

by Yvette Hilhire

Mathias Théroux, born in 1868 in Québec, and married to Malvina Dupuis in Paquetville in 1888, came to South Bend, now Duvernay, around 1905-1906. The Théroux have been in Canada prior to 1706, and came from Toulouse, France. Mathias's father, Basile married in 1856 at St. Aimé d'Yamaska and moved to St. Venant d'Hereford in the Eastern Townships before 1871. It was from here that Basile's sons: Basile, Mathias, Ferdinand and Emery moved West with their families in 1895. Noé, a younger brother, followed later.

Mathias and his wife Malvina had four young children at the time and settled on a homestead in Wetaskiwin. Later, Mathias built a large two-story house closer to town and went into dairy farming.

In 1905 he was in Duvernay, surveyed the area and bought some land. It was probably in 1906 or 1907, that he moved his family to Duvernay. It took them two days to make the journey. They loaded their furniture on to horse-drawn wagons equipped with a rack. Most of the family rode in a two-seat buggy, but the boys followed on horseback, — there were nine children, the oldest, Honoré, was 16 or 17. They stopped overnight at Vegreville and slept in a bunk-house adjacent to the barn where they stabled and fed their horses.

Once the family was settled in their new home, Mathias built a general store (the present Hotel); and to encourage people to remain at South Bend, he also built a livery barn and a butcher shop. For some time, rooms above his general store, housed a harness-shop and a dentist. Mrs. Théroux ran the post-office in the Théroux home for several years.

Later Mathias built a larger home a short distance south of the hotel and sold the old house to Mr. Barnes whose wife later took on the post-office. It was this house that housed the first telephone in Duvernay in 1928.

In 1924, Mathias and his wife moved to Edmonton. His wife Malvina passed away in May 1929 at age 56, but Mathias lived to the age of 74 in 1942.

Mathias and his wife Malvina had a family of ten children. Honoré (married Marguerite Espié), Joseph

Tobin Brunelle (with the moustache), Mr. and Mrs. Vincent and family, and Mr. and Mrs. Louis Thèroux and family.

(married Bernadette Ouellette) Alvine (Mrs. Antoine Brault), Mathilda (Mrs. Zephir St. Hilaire), Louis (married Eva Despins) Clarisse (Mrs. Georges Desrosiers), Alida (Mrs. Joseph Lapierre) Eva (Mrs. Joseph Davies), Olive, and Malvina (Mrs. Brown).

Joseph was the only one to remain in the Duvernay area all his life. He had a farm a mile south of the village and passed away on March 21, 1966 at the age of 74. At this time Omer, Joseph's son, had the farm, and with his wife Irene, took care of his Mother and Dad.

Mathilda (Mrs. Zephir St. Hilaire) also remained in the area for many years. Their farm was about 5½ miles south-east of Duvernay.

At this time (February 1980) Mathilda of Victoria, B.C., Alida of Phoenix, Arizona; Eva of Burnaby, B.C.; and Malvina of Edmonton are still enjoying life.

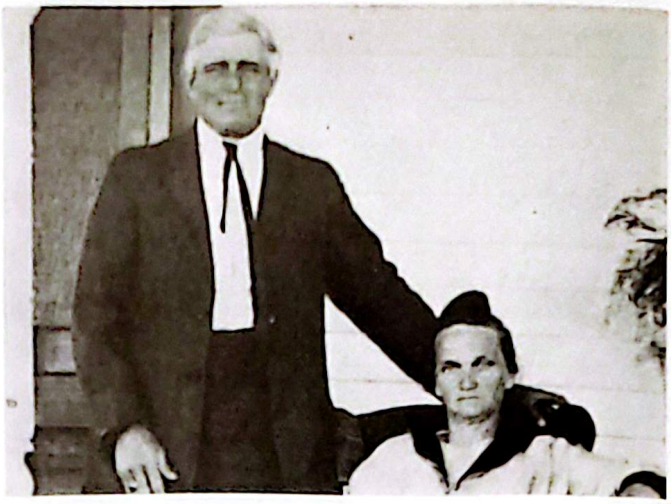
OMER THEROUX — THE ICEMAKER OF DUVERNAY

by Lucia Robinson

In 1904, Matthias Theroux became proprietor of Sec. 27-55-12-W4 at South Bend, N.W.T. He subdivided the north east corner in 1905, at which time the hamlet of Duvernay came into existence. He was instrumental in setting up businesses: a boarding-house, a livery barn, a store, a rooming house and finally, in 1907, built himself a residence.

His grandson, Omer, still owns the S½-27-55-12 W4. He is the son of Joseph Theroux and Bernadette Ouellette, born April 18, 1918, in the Vegreville General Hospital. He attended the Duvernay School, having Miss Lepage, Miss Roy, Miss Bouthilier and Mr. Gauthier as teachers.

In 1932, a dread disease, which would eventually leave him a cripple, forced Joe Theroux to give up work. It became Omer's responsibility to do the farm work so, at 14 years of age, he had to leave school but not regretfully. His father could still supervise his activities and, when checking seeding, would indicate with his cane how to keep the drill tracks straight. His instructions must have been effective because, through the years, Omer has proven to be a successful and well-disciplined farmer.



Mr. and Mrs. Matthias Theroux in front of their house in Duvernay before 1920. Lots 1 and 2, corner of First Avenue and Second Street.

When Omer was 16 he began his winter-time career of ice-maker. With his uncle, Sylvio Ouellette and, at times other helpers, he would cut and haul ice to the Riverside Hotel in Duvernay or to the Two Hills Hotel, Malofey's Butcher Shop, Two Hills Cafe and Two Hills Coffee Shop.

They would choose the deepest spot on the river, below Ovila Vincent's house, where the channel was at least 6′ deep. They would clear the snow and, with an ice-saw, cut blocks 12x12x24″ thick. These were then loaded on sleighs and hauled up the banks of the river to their destination. After loading they had to ascertain that a fence surrounded the hole, to ensure safety for the skaters and travellers who used the river for a winter road.

Horses had to be shod all the way round for which Adelard Ouellette charged 25¢ a foot. The other expenses were: loads scaled (weighed) at the lumber-yard at 15¢ a load; barning the horses at 15¢ a team; 35¢ for filling the stomach with as much stew as you could eat at the hotel or cafe. The total price received for a load of ice weighing 1½ tons was $5.00, so the pay was not excessive. Only the hotels paid cash; the other establishments paid in groceries.

Omer was always proud of his horses and cutter. 1940

Sylvio and Omer also cut ice for farmers who owned ice-houses, at 10¢ a block, bought on the river. These ice-houses were buildings filled with saw-dust. These ice blocks piled in them and carefully covered would last until late summer.

One winter Omer had Philip Blanchette, who lived in the hamlet, help with his ice operations. They would cut some blocks and pull them out of the hole before they froze together again. Omer was on one side using a hook on a long pole while Philip was on the other side with a crowbar to push. Suddenly Flop! Philip had pushed too hard and had fallen into the hole. Fortunately, instead of going under the ice he came up in the clearing, put his arms on the ice and managed to pull himself out of the water. Omer helped him home while his boots were freezing to his feet. At the house he was put to bed and given a few strong drinks to warm him up. Philip was confined to his bed for a few days to get over the chilly dive in the ice-cold water of the river, but suffered no other inconveniences.

Every winter for many years, Omer had another occupation — hauling firewood. Every Saturday he would go either down the river 12 miles or up the river 8 miles to the Saddle Lake Reserve for white poplar. Some would go to his home and some he would sell to the owner of the Riverside Hotel for $2.00 a load.

One year Omer was asked to haul a load of flax-seed to Two Hills as he was the only one who had his horses shod "all around". This trip of seven miles took him 4 hours. It was a stormy morning but the elevator agent insisted it be delivered immediately. This did not prove to be a fun haul. At every incline or decline in the road, at every jolt, these tiny seeds would slip and slide, threatening to overflow at the back, front or sides of the box. It kept Omer busy, driving his two teams while scrambling to keep the load level.

However, all was not work. On Sundays, Omer would take a diversion. In the summer, weather permitting, he would hitch his roan and his iron-grey horses to his Bennett Wagon and with the Brosseau young people would drive along trails and across unfenced fields to Lac Sante, near Pete Jacura's home on NE¼ 5-56-11 W4. There they would enjoy the afternoon. The girls and some of the boys were fortunate enough to have swim wear, but some of the boys would wear their overalls. Later on, Joe Brosseau allowed them to use his truck. One Sunday the driver, Tobin Brunelle, went with them into the water. One of the boys found a dead fish and stuffed it down his back. What a squirming sight that was! Another Sunday, after church, Omer did not go home to change. Instead they all went to the lake again. There was an old boat there, so Maurice, Edward and Omer decided to go rowing. Not far from shore they began to rock the boat. Omer, who did not know how to swim, would not take a chance on drowning, and jumped into waist-high water. He had neglected to remember he was still wearing his good Sunday suit. Alas! It was never to stretch to its original size again!

Omer always enjoyed house parties and there were many of these before the halls were opened. After a few quaffs of invigorating liquids he needed no coaxing to do the "Broom-Dance" to a lively tune played by a local fiddler.

Picnics were also enjoyed. One summer, the annual Brosseau picnic was held at the perpetual gas-fire site, 2 miles east of Brosseau. A baseball diamond had been levelled off and a tournament was in full force. For lunches anyone could go near the fire, kick a little hole in the ground and roast weiners over the flames which would erupt.

For years Omer worked with horses; broke them; was kicked by them; had run-aways. Finally, he disposed of most of them, keeping only two teams, and bought a John Deere M tractor in 1948.

In 1952 Western Chemicals Ltd. came to build its plant in Duvernay, on the quarter adjoining Omer's farm. During its construction phase Omer was to get his first job there. He was hired with his mower to cut the grass so that the carpenters could set their pegs as markers on the site. He stayed until 1958, at first making caustic in the pan-room, then in the yard as a pipefitter's helper, working with Rene Robinson. Between 1958 and 1964 he worked intermittently there, between his farming occupations. In 1964, he went for a medical examination and Dr. Chonko told him, "Leave that place, Omer. Money doesn't mean everything in this world — but your health does." Listening to this advice Omer quit the plant for good.

Omer and Irene Theroux on their wedding day — February 28, 1957.

That year Omer bought a Cockshutt-Diesel Tractor to speed up his farm operations, and a Dodge truck from Bob Brosseau of Bonnyville, Alberta. In 1967-68 he acquired more equipment: a Brady 15′ cultivator, a McCormick 24-run drill, a 36′ sprayer, a Cockshutt 12′ swather and a one-year-old 430 combine. Farming had reached a far-cry from the horse-drawn days.

During the winter of 1956 Omer went to a Bingo in the Brosseau hall. He was asked to call the numbers but, since there were guests from the East, he would have to

The Joe Theroux family, Feb. 28, 1957. Seated L to R - Irene, Joseph Theroux (father) and Omer. Standing - Cecile and Mrs. Theroux.

call in both French and English. Grudgingly he did so — under the B-one, un; under the O, seventy-five, soixante et quinze. After the last game, one of the organizers, Mrs. Annette Ferguson, introduced him to one of the visiting young ladies who would be working for her in Two Hills. Arrangements were made for him to call on the following Wednesday. With trepidation, Omer went. The host kept him entertained all evening with stories about McCormick tractors. After a lunch, at eleven o'clock, Omer was leaving, swearing to himself that he would never return. At the door the young lady apologized, stating that she was sorry they were unable to converse. Never would he call on her in the house but, perhaps they could meet elsewhere. Next Sunday, she was ready to accompany him to Beauvallon to visit at her home. That was the beginning of the romance between Omer and Irene Pautonnier which culminated in marriage.

Albert, 4, and Norman, 2, Theroux in 1962.

Irene was born April 30, 1931 in Edam, Saskatchewan, daughter of Placide Pautonnier and Florine Corbeil. She was educated in Edam and, after they moved to Beauvallon, Alberta, she attended school there until 1947. Then she baby-sat in Myrnam, worked as a ward-aide in the St. Therese Hospital in St. Paul and for Annette Ferguson, where she met Omer.

On February 28, 1957 Omer asked the old family friend, Joe Brosseau, to sit with his father who was now confined to a wheel-chair, and went to the St. Laurent School auditorium, Brosseau, where he was married to Irene, by Father Bouchard. After the ceremony, the wedding party went to St. Paul to have pictures taken and for a wedding dinner, complete with cake, at the Lavoie Hotel. On their return to Omer's home in Duvernay, a lunch was served and the cake was cut. Although no formal invitations had been issued, Omer's friends popped in to help him celebrate.

After their marriage, Omer and Irene lived with his crippled father and ailing mother. Mr. Joe Theroux died March 21, 1966 and Mrs. Bernadette Theroux on December 9, 1970. They are both interred in the Brosseau Cemetery.

Omer Theroux hauling bundles of grain while threshing on his farm.

Omer and Irene's first son was born September 10, 1958 and was given the name of Albert. He was educated in the St. Laurent Separate School, Two Hills Junior High and graduated from the St. Paul Regional School in 1976. Then he went to Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (N.A.I.T.) for 2 years to take Business Administration. He is presently working in St. Paul.

Norman was the New Year's baby in 1960. He attended the St. Laurent School, too, Grade 5 and 6 in Two Hills, 7-9 at Racette in St. Paul and 10-12 in the Regional School there, where he enrolled in Welding.

In 1971 Omer and family moved to St. Paul. For 5 years there he was a part-time beer-slinger at the Lavoie Hotel; now works part-time at a laundromat. He also has the contract to haul the Duvernay garbage to the municipal dump. Omer is still farming the same farm in Duvernay, but is planning and hoping to retire soon.

BASIL THEROUX

by Kay Bigland

Basil Theroux was born in Coaticooke, Quebec. He was the oldest of eleven children. He never attended school so could neither read nor write. At the age of fourteen he was obliged to leave home in search of work to help support the family.

Mr. and Mrs. Basil Theroux seated beside their daughter's, (Mrs. Albert Coutu) house in 1939.

When Basil was 23 he married Elizabeth Bonin. Four years later he left Quebec and went to Washington. After some time there he came to Alberta by covered wagon.

Mr. Theroux roamed throughout the province in search of a place to settle down and in 1902 he found South Bend where he homesteaded. Another party of pioneers from Quebec landed in South Bend in 1903. The presence of fellow countrymen lessened his loneliness. Now he had closer neighbors to visit and talk to.

Before a store was built in the community, the men herded their cattle to Edmonton, following Indian trails which were very rough. They would dispose of the cattle, buy their necessities, visit, enjoy town life, and after a short rest would return to South Bend. Some of the men rode home taking the extra horses with them. Meanwhile Basil would be building a scow. When finished he would load it with groceries, nails, leather etc which would be needed when he got home. Down the river he would paddle. After unloading these purchases in South Bend he would tear the scow apart and use the lumber for building houses, sheds or whatever needed to be built.

For many years the district did not boast of a church. However a Roman Catholic priest made regular visits between Good Fish Lake and Vegreville where there were missions. These priests would stop at different homes to say mass and carry out other religious functions. Many a time Mr. Theroux drove the priest to Vegreville in a bumpy old wagon, drawn by a team of mules.

When asked how he crossed the river Mr. Theroux said, "Sometimes I used a raft. Most times I forded across the shallow places. Sometimes the water was so high that the horses had to swim dragging the wagon behind them. More than once I crossed the river on a log using a pole to push myself. Once I lost my watch which was precious. I kept diving and diving until I found it under a rock."

Mr. Theroux helped put down the first ferry across the river, strung to cables. He ran the ferry for many years without an accident, and without a day of absence because of sickness. The first ferry held two teams; the second four teams; and the third six teams. Once in 1926, Mr. Theroux brought 80 people and 8 cars across the river at one time. He thought this could have been a record for this size ferry.

Mr. Theroux carried the first mail between St. Paul des Metis and Vegreville, and made "many a hard trip after that first one, in all kinds of weather. The roads weren't too good at that time."

When the bridge was built in 1930 Mr. Theroux was no longer a young man but he was still wiry. To prove it he walked across the river on the steel structure of the bridge.

But all was not hard work for Mr. Theroux. Many dances were held in homes, sheds and haylofts. He enjoyed greatly the old-fashioned "quadrilles" or square dances which were his favorites.

Finally he retired in St. Albert where he died on Oct. 29/1947. His wife passed away in May 10/1945. They raised 4 children: Emilia Coutu, Eli Theroux, Moise and Rosalie who are all gone.

Every body knew "old Basil" and his eccentricities. He was quite a character and many stories could be told of the old boy. At one time word got around that he was selling moonshine to his passengers. The police got wind of this and sent out two plain clothes detectives to investigate. They were the only passengers on this particular crossing. They asked "old Basil" for a drink for which they were willing to pay. "I don't know if I should sell you drinks because it isn't safe to sell to strangers." They assured him that he could trust them; they were good boys and would not cause him any trouble or problems. So, Basil went under the platform of the ferry where he stored things to stay cool. He brought up two bottles of whiskey for which they paid two dollars. They got off the ferry on the other side quite happy. Basil had a good laugh on his return crossing. He told his old buddy, Mr. Archambault, "I just sold those two so-and-so's two bottles of "Good river water."

MOISE THEROUX

Moise Theroux was born in Wetaskiwin, on September 21, 1904. He moved to Duvernay with his parents Mr. & Mrs. Basil Theroux and went to school there. On May

Mary and Moise Theroux, Mrs. and Mr. Basil Theroux, Rose standing in front of her mom and dad. Lillian in Grandpa's arms. (1930)

the 9th, 1927, Moise Theroux married Mary Chrapko and lived on NW 28-55-12-4, which is now owned by Barney Weir.

In 1933, he left to go to the Lac La Biche Mission to take a homestead. They were fortunate to find an old house not too far away to stay in while he built one of their own. They were there about four years when his wife did not feel too good so they moved back to Duvernay to be closer to a good hospital in Edmonton. They opened up a store and he bought a truck. He freighted cattle to Edmonton and brought freight for local stores. Just a few years after he had the misfortune of losing his wife and was left with four daughters; Rose, Lillianne, Olive and Ethel. Mrs. Theroux passed away on August 17, 1940 and Mr. Theroux on Decmeber 23, 1966. They also lost three children; Elie, Rene and Yvonne.

EMERY AND LOUISA THEROUX

by Anne Muri

Emery Theroux 1871 - 1940, son of Basil Theroux and Elizabeth Cotnoir, was born in St. Edwidge, P.Q. At the age of 27 years he married Louisa Fleury (1881 - 1960) of Burlington VT. They came to Alberta in 1900 with one year old Alcide and lived near Wetaskiwin for

Emery and Louisa Theroux

two years and bore another child, Eugene. They sold their farm, a homestead and moved near Ben's lake, south west of Two Hills. The young couple lived in a sod covered shack, and so began their new life with only their will and determination to succeed in their new land. The "sod-die" featured apple-box cupboards, a single wood burning stove, plank board beds with straw-filled mattresses and walls covered with an assortment of newspaper. Maria-Louise and Florien were new additions to this family. Louise recalls cutting up paper dolls with her sister Maria in front of the open stove when some paper caught fire and in minutes the whole room was aflame, as it had caught up in the newspaper on the walls. Louisa (mother) was in the next room when she suddenly smelled the smoke and rushing into the main part of the house, her first thoughts were of the girls, but in their fright they had fled outside to hide. Louisa called them and shortly they came out of their hiding. It was at this point that Louisa remembered a roll of money hidden away amongst clothing in a cupboard. She quickly slipped her apron over her hair and rushed through the flames in order to retrieve their savings, thinking their house was going to burn, and then proceeded to get water from the well. This well had a pulley with a rope tied to it but, in her rush, she sent the wrong pail down, therefore closing the entry. She then had to run to the river nearby and carried water from it until the men, who were haying close by, saw the smoke and came to help.

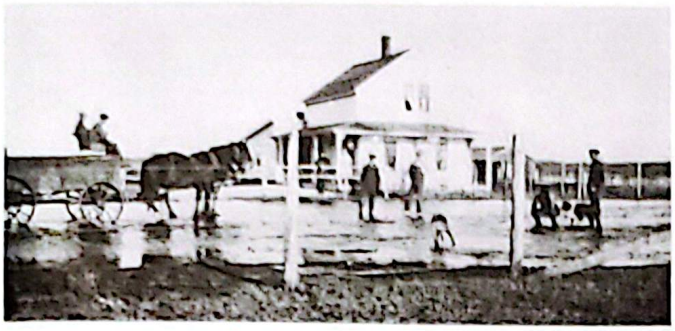
The two eldest were of school age and the home served as the classroom for their own as well as neighboring children.

Emery and Louisa had built and furnished a new home and became a beehive of activity. The freighters soon found the generous hospitality they needed in order to make their journey possible. At any time of day or night, travellers would find refuge and food for themselves and their horses and so it became known as the "halfway stopping" place. Since the mail came from Vegreville and travelled to St. Paul, the "halfway" was also a good place for the post-office, and a telephone pay station was also installed. All this meant more work for Louisa but the boys helped Emery with the care of the horses. Louisa was indeed an exceptional woman and by now there were eight children.

One day as Louisa was busy doing the washing (by hand) she looked up and saw another traveller, this time on foot. She left the wash and went about preparing dinner for him. When she turned around to ask him to sit down for his meal, she suddenly had a great surprise — this was her own brother Andy coming to visit her from the States. It was such a joy to have him. He stayed and helped her and also built a counter and kitchen cupboards in her new home. The farm did progress in every way, the clearing of some land, crops grew and more land was bought enabling Emery to establish his seven sons. But all did not always go smoothly as, in 1925 and again in 1940, the Vermilion river flooded banks. No one suffered, except it meant moving out into a tent, atop a hill and using a boat from the house to the barns.

Louisa Theroux had a soft spot in her heart for the native people and every year when the reserve folks would go by from Saddle Lake to Edmonton on their way to Ste. Anne's pilgrimage, they would stop, knowing they would receive bags of clothing and fresh baked bread for their journey.

There existed in Emery and Louisa's lives a deep sense of honesty, responsibility and deep concern for the welfare of their family. All their children went to school in the convent in Vegreville but when their grandchildren became of school age, there were only protestant schools in their district, so it became necessary to open their own private school. Teachers were hired so that French and Catechism were included in the curriculum. It took some effort at first to keep it open as the Department of



Vermillion River flood in 1915. Emery's house in the background.

Education objected, saying the windows did not give enough light and the desks were too small and whoever heard of a school built in a farm yard! But with a few trips to the city, Emery soon convinced them all was in order and when a few students obtained diplomas and prizes there was no more trouble. It became known that this was the only privately owned school in Alberta and it stayed open for 15 years.

In those years most housewives knew the extra food they needed for the length of time it took when a threshing crew came along in the fall. Well, imagine a crew of fourteen young students coming in every day for ten months every year and sitting around Ma Theroux's table and be fed a full course meal along with their teacher and other members of the family. Louisa never complained because in her heart she knew that what she was doing was very important.

There was also another very special benefit in the Theroux Household and that was that every Sunday mass was held in their home. An altar was prepared, using a large dresser and sheets were used to make an appropriate setting for the celebration of the mass. Priests came serving missions around. One Sunday Mgr. O'Leary, Archbishop of Edmonton, honored everyone by his visit and Mr. Edmond Smith gave a warm, welcoming speech.

With a history of poor health all his life Emery passed away April 2, 1940 at the age of 69. He was buried in Vegreville. Louisa stayed on the farm for eight more years, at which time she moved to Vegreville. She took on the job of Nurse Mother, seeing that all the girls were in before locking up at night. She moved to Legal and stayed with her son Eugene until her death January 6th, in 1960 at the age of 79. She was buried in Vegreville.

Alcide Theroux Family. Therese Jr., Therese, Louisette, Alcide, Paul, Jean.

Eugene Theroux and family. Denis, Ida, Alice, Leo, Bernard, Albina, Lena, Eugene, Rita, Annette.

Wilfred, Eugene, Sr. Louise, Maria, Sid, Florian, Yvonne, Armand, Florida, Anna, Louisa with Roland, Emery with Philippe. 1923.

Sister Louisa Theroux.
Then — Now (1980)

The family consisted of thirteen surviving children:

ALCIDE — 1899 - 1978: married Blanche Boileau who died in 1918 of the flu. He remarried Therese Simard and had four children: Paul, Therese, Louisette and Jean. Sid farmed at Ben's Lake until he joined the army in 1940. His wife moved to Vegreville with the family. On his return, he took a plumbing course. He lived in Edmonton until he passed away June 7, 1978.

EUGENE — 1901 - married Albina Lapierre. They had ten children: Bernard, Laurence, Ida, Leo, Alice, Lena, Denis, Annette, Aurore and Rita. Eugene farmed in Ben's Lake, worked at brushing and breaking to open up his land. He built himself a log house and this was home till 1947 when he moved to Legal. He worked in Edmonton for fifteen years. Albina opened a store from 1947-1960. They are now retired in the Senior Sturgeon Home in Legal.

MARIA — 1902 - She married Athanase Venne. They had six children: Jerome, Claire, Angele, Blanche, Marcel and Jeannette. They farmed all their lives and were comfortable in a lovely home. Marcel became a dentist and is still practicing in St. Albert and Jeannette graduated an R.N. Athanase passed away May 19, 1950 and Maria, Oct. 17, 1966.

LOUISA —1904 - left home at the early age of thirteen years to enter the order of the Sisters of Charity of Evron and served in the capacity of cook for fifty years. She is now retired in Edmonton.

FLORIAN — 1905 - 1977: married Eva Henley and they had six children: Adrian, Louisa, Angele, Lorraine, Hector and Loretta. They farmed near Lafond for a few years, then moved to Edmonton. He stayed with his brother Philip for a few years, then moved to Penticton, B.C. to retire to the Seniors there. He passed away Nov. 20, 1977.

Venne - 1948. Marcel, Angele, Jerome, Maria, Athanase, Blanche, Claire, Jeannette, Mariette.

WILFRED — 1908 - married Alma Langlois and they had 6 children: Richard, Rene, Roxanne, Emile, Albert, and Aime. They farmed a few years in Warwick, then went to Turner Valley to work in the Oilfields. On his return, sold his farm in Warwick and bought a new farm

Wilfred Theroux Family. Aime, Roxanne, Wilfred, Alma, Emile, Albert, Father Richard, Rene.

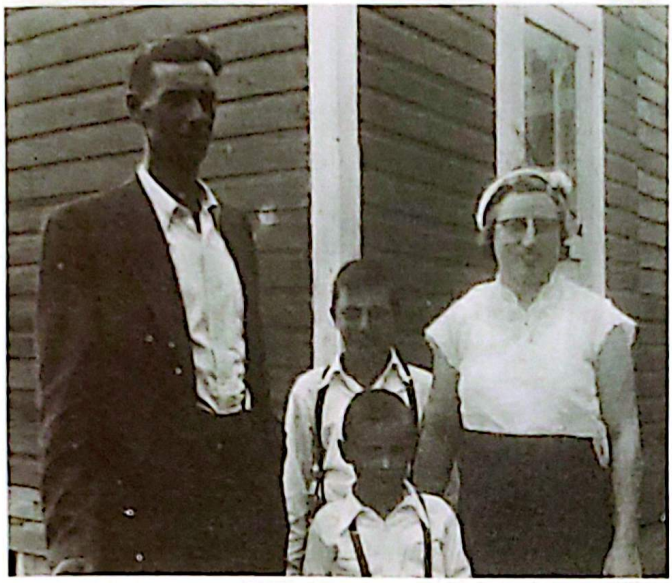
in Lamoureux. It was a glorious and joyful day when Richard was ordained priest June 4, 1960. Wilfred and Alma were very proud parents. They are now retired in Edmonton.

ARMAND — 1911 - married Therese Belisle and have five children: Pierrette, Maurice, Roger, Yvette and Denise. Armand farmed in Ben's Lake area for a few years. In later years he contracted excavation work. Therese had a lifelong career of teaching. They are now retired in Lafond.

YVONNE — 1914 - married Jos. Pare and had nine children: Doris, Lucille, Jean, Diane, Jeanine, Georgette, Paul, Fernand and Charles. They lived in St. Paul for a few years, then moved to Legal where Jos worked as a mechanic and Yvonne at a Nursing home for ten years. They are now retired in Legal.

FLORIDA — 1916 - married Albert Bodeux and had one son Victor. Albert farmed near Cheadle, Alta., also operated a dairy until his death in 1945. She remarried Armand Pare and has a son, Marcel. They have now retired in Kelowna, B.C.

Joe Pare Family. Front row, Paul, Jos, Charles, Yvonne, Fernand, Georgette, Diane, Jeanne, Lucille, Doris, Jean.



Armand Pare, Victor Bodeux, Florida (Bodeux) Pare, Marcel Pare.

ANNA — 1918 - married David Muri and have three children: Gary, Daniel and Loretta. David worked in Calgary for ten years, then moved to High River on a farm. In 1965 moved to Two Hills and although retired still lives on the farm. Gary graduated from the Veterinary College while Dan operates the farm and specializes in hogs. Loretta graduated from the School of Nurses.

Ryan Muri, Eileen Muri, Daniel Muri, Ed Miller (Back) Dawn Muri, Gary Muri, Anne and David Muri, Loretta Miller, Kerry Muri, Tyler Muri, David Miller.

Yvonne, (twins) Bernard - Bernardette, Helene, Phyllis, Paul, Lorette, Philippe, Robert, Marcel Theroux.

JEANNE — 1920 - married Bill Roska and had three children: Violet, Virgil and Maxine. They farmed near New Kiew until his death in 1965. Jeanne moved to Vegreville with her family and in 1966 married Larry Lupul. Larry is retired but Jeanne keeps busy with the charge of the rectory and also works at the hospital in Vegreville.

PHILIPPE — 1912 - married Yvonne Durand and have eight children: Helene, Bernard and Bernardette (twins), Lorette, Marcel, Paul, Robert and Phyllis. Philippe farmed a few years on the home place, then moved to Lamoureux where he janitored schools and drove school busses. He moved to Horse Hill School Division where he and his family are caretakers of a very modern school there.

Roland Theroux and Family. Ilene, Irene, Roland, Eric. Nov. 14, 1971 on their 25th Anniversary.

ROLAND — 1924 - married Irene Bradshaw and had two children: Ilene and Eric. They farmed a few years in Ben's Lake, then moved to Two Hills. They drove school busses. Roland received a gold watch for twenty-five years of service, Irene was but a few months short of twenty-five years. He is now involved in bigger equipment and trucking for the oil wells.

5 Generations. Diane Derbyshire, Angela Svelka, Maria Venne, Louisa Theroux, Valerie Fleury.

NEW YEAR'S DAY AT BEN'S LAKE. HALFWAY STOPPING PLACE.

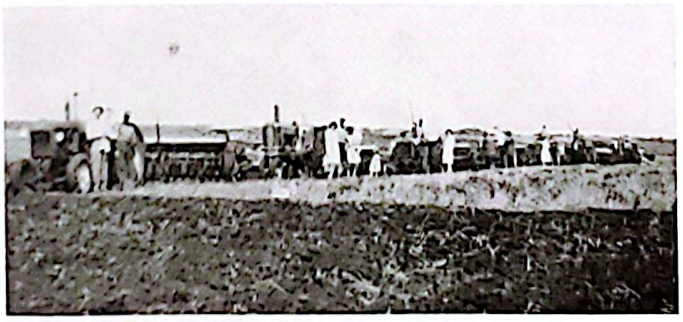
New Year was a celebration of family and friends. It began early in the morning, when the whole family dressed in their finest outfits, ready lined up for the parental blessing and so starting with the eldest, Emery

would bless and kiss each one down the line. Afterwards we would exchange wishes, embracing and kissing and so was carried out the solemn French-Canadian tradition.

We then prepared to go to Noe Theroux's for breakfast. We were welcomed with embracing and kissing, then Noé would pass out the wine and all sat down for ham roast and an assortment of rich buns and cakes.

All too soon over and time to go for dinner at Azarie Venne's place. By this time more families and neighbors had arrived and we could hear music and singing as we were nearing the house — more embracing kissing and New Year's wishes sincerely exchanged. The meal was expertly prepared for Mrs. Venne was known for her delicious "tourtiere". Everyone was happy, more singing and at every round of wine a new song came about and Mrs. Venne usually thrilled us with a toe-tapping dance.

By five o'clock people began pouring in at Emery and Louisa's house for supper. Everyone was again embracing and kissing and exchanging the New Year traditional wish and for a maiden, you may be sure her wish was a husband in the coming year. Excitement was felt by all and soon supper was served. The tables were two long tables set together in an L-shape and sitting about 45 people, usually there were 3 settings. There was turkey, roast pork, goose, meat pies, and ragout. There were pies, Xmas cake, jello, and sweet buns. When supper was over, the tables were taken outside in preparation for the dance. Music was provided by friends and dancing went on till the wee hours of the morning. Meanwhile, in the living room the older generation enjoyed singing to the accompaniment of the organ and after each song, another drink for another singer. These were truly happy times but in 1959 Emery showed signs of poor health and so this was to be the last of the New Year celebrations at "HALFWAY".



At work on the Emery Theroux's farm, 1950.

NOÉ THEROUX

by Lucia Robinson

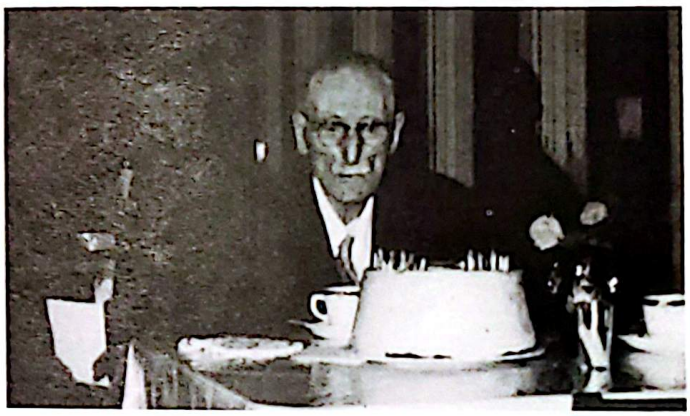
Mr. Noé Theroux was born October 1875 at St. Edwidge, Quebec and came to Alberta in 1900. Three years later he married Clemence Laboucane (born 1878) of St. Paul. Their twin boys, Wilfred and Eddie, born

Noé Theroux's family in 1923, Joseph, Alphonse, Mr. Noé Theroux and daughter Rose at Ben's Lake, near Warwick.

1904, died. Then came Alphonse, Joseph and Rose. In 1916 Clemence passed away with another baby. Many years later Noé married Marie Irene Pichie (born 1884). Noé died in 1963 at the age of 88 years old and Irene on November 25, 1970.

Son Joseph Theroux (born June 19, 1908) married Martha Volk of Vegreville.

Daughter Rose (born March 21, 1910) married Joe Volk.



Noé Theroux at 84 years old at the Homesteaders Inn in Vegreville as he celebrated his birthday.

ALPHONSE THEROUX "THE FIDDLER"

by Lucia Robinson

The oldest son of Noé Theroux and of Clemence Laboucane was Alphonse, born June 10, 1906. He lived on the farm in Vegreville for a few years. In 1927 he married Eva Gray (born 1906) daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ambroise Gray of Brosseau. Her father worked for the Dominion Lands Department and worked as homestead inspector for many years. He helped many new settlers choose their new home-sites.

Mr. Ambroise Gray homesteaded in Brosseau, before it was known as such. Also, when he settled here there was no province of Alberta but the region was called the North West Territories. He built his log house along the north shore of the North Saskatchewan River on SE¼ 34-55-12-W4th, in 1901.

After Alphonse and Eva were married, he farmed in Brosseau after having moved to different places in the

Alphonse Theroux playing his fiddle at the Senior Citizens' Home in St. Paul in 1974. Mr. Duffy was the dancer so Alphonse must have been playing an Irish dance.

Rose and Joe Volk.

At Mr. & Mrs. Joe Volk's (Rose Theroux) 25th wedding anniversary on January 1961. From left; Martha Theroux, Rose Volk, Joe Volk and Joseph Theroux.

region. There he lived on a fraction of NE¼ 14-56-12-W4th near Small Fish Lake (now called Brosseau Lake). When he was offered a job with the county he moved to St. Paul. He worked on the roads for 25 years until he semi-retired. Then he worked for the R.C.M.P. as watchman at their detention center until his health forced him to retire completely. He lived in St. Paul until his death.

Alphonse was a fine "Old-time Fiddler. He enjoyed going to the Senior Citizens' Home to entertain them with his music.

Joe Theroux and his wife Martha (nee Volk) with a grand-daughter, Nov. 16, 1967.

Eva Theroux died November 3, 1976 and Alphonse June 22, 1978. They had nine children:
Camille and Louis in Edmonton
Euclid in St. Paul
Ronald in St. Albert
Victor and Vernon in Hinton, Alberta
Irene Carter in Edmonton
Therese and Edna have died.

ACHTEMI TWERDOCHLIB

by Robert Bachelet

On April 2, 1882, Achtemi Twerdochlib was born in Lestiwka, Bukowina, Austria, son of peasant parents. As a young man he worked for the Lords. On November 16, 1900 he married Stella Magdeleine in Mamaestie, Bukowina. Their first son, William, was born April 3, 1902 and a daughter, Anne, on September 14, 1910.

On June 10, 1914, Achtemi, Stella, William (aged 12) and Anne (4 years old) sailed for Canada, landing in Halifax 14, days later, on June 24th. They boarded a train for Strathcona, Alberta, and were picked up by friends. They settled in Hairy Hill for one year, working for Toderuk's and Makowichuk's to raise enough money to purchase a homestead. In July 1915 they homesteaded at Lac Canard (½ mile south of the Myrnam highway junction with the Lafond secondary road). There he broke land with a grub hoe as he had no horses. That summer he walked to Edmonton to get a bag of flour which he carried on his back. His second summer on the homestead he purchased a pair of oxen,

Achtemi and Stella Twerdochlib in front of their house on the farm in Foisy, Alberta, taken in 1936.

and, being a very hot summer, it was quite an experience with flies. The oxen always wanted to go into the sloughs to get away from them.

Mike was born on the homestead. On November 6, 1917 Mary was born (Mrs. Alex Balansky). Katie (Mrs. Nick Petroski) was born July 8, 1919. A third son, John, arrived at Lake Eliza on the homestead, on May 6, 1922.

Farming progressed so, in April 1927, Achtemi purchased NW¼ 30-56-11-W4 from North West Mortgage Co. in Edmonton for a total price of $1500. Mr. McCullough was farming 11 acres on this land. In the spring of 1928 Achtemi and family left Lake Eliza and moved to the Champlain district. That was a good year and the crops were very good. The Emes Brothers did the threshing.

On January 16, 1940 Stella passed away at home and was buried in the Evangelical Cemetery in Brosseau. That same year Achtemi retired from farming but lived on with his son, John, who took over the farm operations. In April 1948, in one of the worst blizzards that John can remember on the farm, Achtemi passed away and was buried in the Marnaestie Greek Orthodox cemetery in Brosseau.

JOHN G. TWERDOCHLIB

by Robert Bachelet

John is the son of Achtemi and Stella Twerdochlib. He was born May 6, 1922, at home in Lake Eliza. In 1928 the family went to Lac Canard staying there until October when they moved to NW¼ 30-56-11-W4th.

John attended Champlain School until 1936. His teachers were Miss Robin, Misses Lucia & Florence Brosseau and Miss Pue.

When John left school he stayed on the farm to help his parents. In 1942 he was conscripted to the army (this being the war years of 1939-1945) but, being the only boy at home on the farm, he was exempted. Yet, in wintertime, he had to go to Burn's Packing Plant in Edmonton, or to the sawmills in Prince George B.C. or Granada, Alberta to relieve manpower shortage.

On December 27, 1940 John married Lucy (Duneanco) Doonanco in the St. Paul Pentecostal Church with Rev. W.S. Frederick officiating. The reception was at John's home in Foisy, which was also Mr. & Mrs. Achtemi Twerdochlib's, where John and Lucy remained.

Lucy, daughter of Sam and Sophie Duneanco, was born in Redwater, Alberta, on October 17, 1921. From 1927 to 1935, she attended Berg School, north east of Bonnyville, finishing grade eight, which at that time was good. In July she went to work for Natal Dufresne, doing chores on the farm, for $4.00 a month. From January to July 1936 she worked for Dr. Sabourin, Bonnyville, for $25.00 a month. From July 1936 to 1938 she was employed at the Duclos Hospital, Bonnyville for $35.00 per month. Then she came to milk cows and do chores for John S. Chrapko, Foisy for $8.00 a month. She remained there until she married John in 1940.

April 1941 — Mother (Stella) passed away.

October 14, 1943 — 1st daughter, Irene Joyce, was born in the St. Therese Hospital, St. Paul. She married Ian Hay and they live in Oxford, Michigan, USA. They have 2 children Scotty and Dianne.

1943 — While John was absent, working in Granada, Alberta, the chimney caught fire. Lucy was alone with two small children and her father-in-law who was 66 years old. He climbed to the roof with a pail of water to extinguish the fire, which saved the little shack called Home.

March 7, 1945 — 1st son, Ronald Roger, was born in the St. Therese Hospital, St. Paul. He married Madeleine Jodoin and lives in Spruce Grove. (3 children Karen, Kathy, Kelvin).

The war being over, John went to work for Genereux Building Supplies, St. Paul, as carpenter until 1949.

Arpil 4, 1948 — 2nd son, Jim Joseph, was born in the Two Hills Municipal Hospital, attended by Dr. Winnitoy. He married Marcia Kupchenko and lives in St. Albert, Alberta.

April 4, 1948 — Achtemi Twerdochlib passed away during one of the worse storms in history. Only cats could open the roads.

January 10, 1951 — David Lawrence was born in the Elk Point Hospital. He married Marlene Looy and lives in Edmonton. (3 children Coreen, Tammy, Randy)

October 15, 1952 — 2nd daughter, Suzanne Lorraine was born in the St. Therese

Hospital, St. Paul. She married Howard Christianson and lives in Edmonton. (2 children Crista, Corry)

November 17, 1955 — 4th son, Ervin Clarence, was born in the Elk Point Hospital. He married Brenda Ellufson (Claresholm)

In May 1955 John went to work at the Western Chemicals Plant, Duvernay, as a labourer and a pipefitter's helper with Rene Robinson. In 1957 he became a pan-room operator (this is where the caustic is made). He worked there until 1976 when he became sick and had to leave his job. In 1975 he had started selling Electrolux products part-time, so, he undertook to do this easier work full-time. Because of his poor health farming became too difficult and painful, so, he rents out his farm but lives on the original home place.

OF OTHER EVENTS

by M. Tomyn

While Two Hills district was in its infancy, other events in Alberta and Canada were the focus of attention of many of our forbears.

1900

— Canadian troops saw action in the Boer War in South Africa.
— Sir Wilfred Laurier, a Liberal, was Prime Minister of Canada.

1901

— Marconi received the first Trans-Atlantic wireless message at St. John's, Newfoundland.
— Queen Victoria died and Edward VII became King.

1902

— The safety razor was invented.

1903

— Barr colonists arrived at Lloydminster.
— The Frank slide buried a part of the mining town of Frank and killed 66 people.
— The cream seperator modernized the farm and kept the milk maid happy.

1904

— Charles Saunders produced disease resistant, quick-ripening Marquis Wheat.
— Earl Grey was Governor-General of Canada.

1905

— The provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan were welcomed into Confederation.
— Canadian Northen Railway reached Edmonton.
— The name "Alberta" is derived from the name of Queen Victoria's daughter, Louise Caroline Alberta. The princess's husband, the Marquis of Lorne, was Governor-General of Canada and persuaded the Canadian government to adopt the name for a part of the Northwest Territories in 1882. The name was officially chosen for the province of Alberta in 1905.
— The first Premier of Alberta was A.C. Rutherford, a Liberal.
— The Canadian Northern Railway reached Edmonton.
— The first hydro-electric plant was established at Niagara Falls, Ontario.

1906

— First motion-picture theatre was opened in Montreal.
— The first dirigible ("The Flying Sausage") made its flight in Montreal.
— Tommy Burns, a Canadian, won the world heavyweight boxing title. (No Canadian has since held the title).
— The Lord's Day Act forbade most business activities on Sunday.

1907

— Vacuum cleaners appeared on the Canadian scene.
— The Quebec railway bridge collapsed, killing 75 workers.

1908

— The Royal Canadian Mint was completed at Ottawa.
— Peter Verigin established a Doukhobor colony in B.C.
— The University of Alberta was founded at Edmonton.
— Ernest Thompson Seton organized the Boy Scouts of Canada.
— The first gas station in Canada was opened in Vancouver.

1909

— The United Farmers of Alberta appeared as a farmer organization.
— Governor-General Earl Grey donated the Grey Cup for the Canadian rugby-football champions.
— J.A.D. McCurdy made the first flight in Nova Scotia.

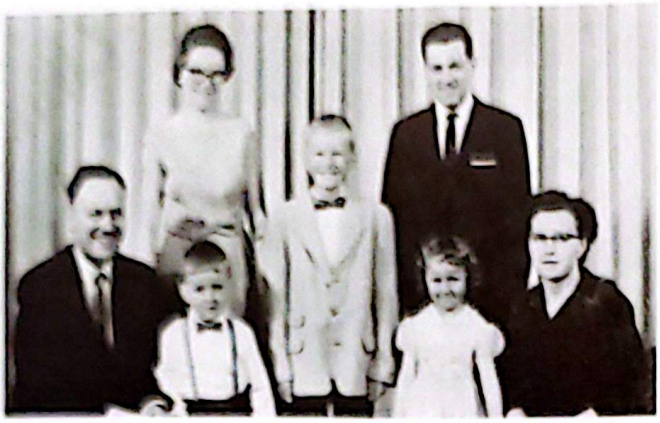
1910

— An avalanche in Roger's Pass killed 58 of a crew of a railway work train.
— The T. Eaton's catalogue occupied second place to the Family Bible.
— The incubator was beginning to jip the hen of her motherly instinct.

MICHAEL AND GEORGINA TOMYN

by M. Tomyn

Michael H. Tomyn, teacher and principal, was born at Plain Lake (south of Two Hills), Alberta, on April 17, 1915. He is the son of Harry (1889-1953) and Annie (nee Petasky) Tomyn, born in 1899 and still living. He is the grandson of Daniel Tomyn, an early Ukrainian pioneer who settled in the Wostok district, close to Edna (later Star), Alberta, in 1899. The family had emigrated from the village of Skowiatyn, County of Borschiw in Westen Ukraine.



Family of Michael and Georgina Tomyn. Back row, Ihor, Anna, Harry, Michael. Front row, Ted, Lillian (1960).

Michael, as well as his five brothers and sisters, attended Plain Lake School which was a one-room school (grades 1 to 8 till 1929) and a two-room school (grades 1 to 10 after 1929). Teachers like P.M. Shavchook, John Nagle, William Tomyn, Pearl Podealuk, and William and Mary Kindrachuk stand out most prominently in Michael's mind. (The Plain Lake School is described elsewhere in this publication).

To complete his high school, Michael attended School at Two Hills where he took his grade twelve, his teacher and principal being Mr. Laughlin. Some of the business places operating in Two Hills in 1934 were: Dowhaniuk and Kolisniak General Store, Olinyk General Store, Skakun General Store, Harasym Garage and Hall, Fedirchuk Drug Store, Crown Hardware and Lumber, Bank of Montreal, Moloffy's Butcher Shop, C.P.R. Station, Two Hills Hotel, Post Office, several livery barns, market place, a few garages and an impressive line of grain elevators.

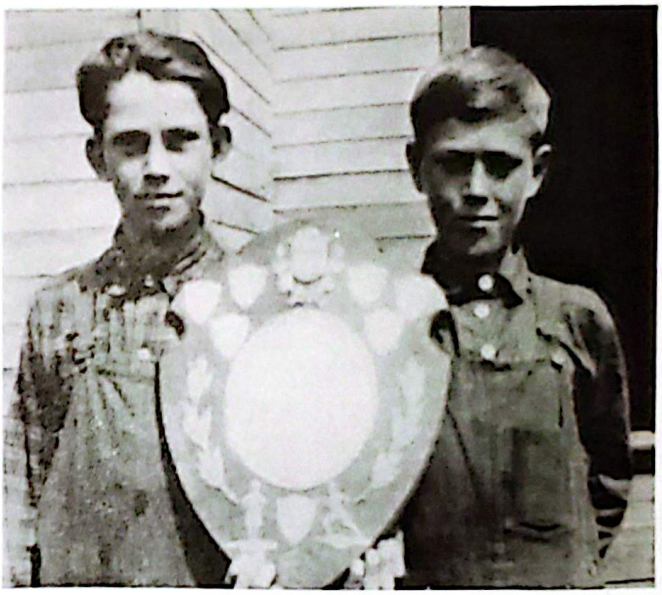
Michael took his Calgary Normal School (Teacher) Training in 1935-36. In 1937 he married Georgina Melnyk and the couple was blessed with five children. Michael Jr., the oldest child is a Provincial Court Judge, residing in Edmonton. Anna is a school teacher at Mission, B.C. Harry is a lawyer practicing in Vancouver. Lillian is a librarian at the Unviersity of Alberta. Ted is an electronics technician in Calgary.

Michael's first teaching position was at Myroslawna School, north-east of Innisfree. For ten years, 1938-48, Michael taught at Kolomea School, just north of Royal Park. He was principal of the school for eight years. At Mundare, Michael was quite busy — teacher, mayor for two terms, Air Cadet adjutant, Exalted Ruler of the Elks, District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler of the Elks, Vice-President of the National Hall, the Lamont School Division Teachers' Local, and weed inspector for the municipality. The weed inspector job has kept him busy for fourteen summers.

Michael spent many summers marking and chairing the marking of the grade nine departmental examinations. By attending summer school and taking evening courses he obtained his Bachelor of Education degree in 1961.

From Mundare, Michael and his family moved to Vegreville in 1951. From here he travelled to teach at Lavoy where he was principal for nine years. Since then he has been principal at A.L. Horton Junior High School, and for the last thirteen years he has been principal of St. Mary's School — grades 1 to 6. He has taught for a total of forty-four years, thirty-four of which were spent in administration.

In politics, Michael's interests lay with the C.C.F. (now N.D.P.). He was a candidate in the Vegreville federal riding in 1945, and campaign manager (agent) in the provincial elections in 1944, 1948, and 1955. Because he is a fluent speaker in English and Ukrainian, his services as toastmaster and master of ceremonies are often called upon.



William Hnydyk and Michael Tomyn holding the Lord Strathcona Trust Shield, 1928.

Presently Michael is busy working on two local history books, one for Vegreville and one for Mundare. When he retires he hopes to do some of the things he had no time to do while he was busy teaching. At the moment he is president of his church, accountant at one of the garages, and Vice-President of the Vegreville Historical Society whose latest challenge is the publication of the History of Vegreville and District.

Georgina, Michael's wife, has led a very busy life. To raise five children is no small chore. Her hobby is painting and she has won several top prizes for her exhibits in art competitions in this part of the province. Having taken extension courses in art, she has been of great assistance to the teachers of St. Mary's School where her husband is principal. At the school she is a stenographer, librarian and teacher-aide. She also likes sewing and as a seamstress she turns out a masterful product.

The M. Tomyn family has lived in Vegreville since 1951, that is, for the last 29 years.

Looking back, Michael and Georgina feel they can truly count their blessings.

GLIMPSES INTO THE PAST: MY REMINISCENCES AND IMPRESSIONS

by M. Tomyn

The pioneers, the first settlers, considered themselves lucky and blessed to be able to acquire a homestead, a farm of 160 acres for only ten dollars. Wood, water, wild fruits and birds — these were all free. By "putting his hand to the plow" the settler could obtain or fashion nearly everything he needed, by tapping the natural wealth.

In many instances, the first home was a sod-covered dugout, or a log house covered with sod. The holes between the logs were chinked with a mixture of clay and straw or hay. Doors, frames, hinges, etc. were home-made. The trouble with a sod-roofed house was that it rained in the house for quite a long time after it stopped raining outside. Pots and pans caught the dripping water. Sometimes some sort of umbrella covered the crib or bed. Shingles were definitely an improvement, in more ways than one, and lumber siding was an amenity.

Outdoor Oven.

Some Ukrainian homes had an indoor or and outdoor oven made of logs and clay. The outside one had a curved roof while the inside one was usually flat. Because it was warm for a long time, it make a good sleeping area, akin to the incubator.

Many clothing items we made at home 30 to 50 years ago. It was not uncommon to see some clothes with the trademark of a sugar or flour company. One incident merits mention. In the high jump at the school, some of us were watching a young girl execute the leap. Just as she was going over, we spied Robin Hood fly over the bar.

Washing clothes over a washboard was no small chore. I do not know a single soul who just loved washing clothes this way. I tried it once but my belly seemed to be getting most of the punishment. A far cry from modern automatic washers.

Many will recall that soap was made at home. Ashes, lye, tallow, lard — these were the ingredients. Some of our surviving pioneers claim this soap beats many of our modern brands.

Many a pioneer home had its first mattresses filled with hay or straw. Every few weeks the mattress was emptied and then replenished with a new fill. Many beds were home-made, boards were the first springs.

The furcoats brought by the Ukrainians from Europe had the fur on the inside; ours, today, have the fur on the outside. It would be interesting to research which is more functional.

I sometimes wonder how all of us could do our homework at a table, the room being lit up by a coal oil lamp. It worked and was definitely more productive than a candle. Then came the Alladin Mantle Lamp, followed by the kerosene and gasoline mantle lamp. The Alladin lamp gave a bright light but would malfunction in a hot room; the mantle would turn dark. The kerosene and gasoline mantle lamps worked well till the moth season; then the moths would have a propensity for colliding with the mantle. Isn't it sort of strange to hear people complain about the lack of proper electric lighting today? The improvement in the quality of lighting is everywhere apparent.

The conditions of the Homestead Act were explicit: to prove up on the homestead, the farmer had to break and seed about five acres a year, for three years, he had to show signs of development, as house, barn, some buildings, well, and some fencing, and he had to reside on the land six months a year. It appeared as if the government bet the settler 160 acres to his $10 that he "wouldn't make it." Some didn't make it and the government won the bet, but most made it and kept the land.

At the middle of every section was an iron peg with the proper farm location designation. Around it were four holes to mark the four quarters of the section. Eventually some of these pegs landed in some farmyards for a certain utility while some became antique pieces.

To prepare a field for growing grain, the ground was dug up with a spade or broken up with a walking plow drawn by oxen or horses. Seed was broadcast by hand, but later a box with a crank on the side speeded up the process and alleviated some of the hardship.

In the 1920's the sulky plow and the gang plow were used. Both had a seat to ride on. The sulky was pulled by two or three horses and plowed one furrow. The gang plow was drawn by four or five horses and cut two furrows.

Harvesting, i.e. cutting, was executed with a scythe or a sickle, and threshing was done with a flail. A sickle resembled a boommerang and was handled with one hand; the scythe had a long handle and was manipulated with both hands, in a swinging motion. The flail, two sticks held together with a leather thong, beat the grain out. Winnowing was the last operation of harvest; the wind blew away the chaff as the grain was dropped from a height.

Binders were a godsend — they cut and tied the grain in one operation. Soon threshing machines appeared. First the horses on a treadmill supplied the motive power. Later steam engines supplied the power. Some small steam engines were stationary and had to be moved with horses or oxen. Others, the bigger ones, were self-propelled, clumsy but functional. They ate a lot of wood and straw and drank a lot of water. At the threshing machine a man stood at the feeder and cut the twine, flattened the sheaf, and pushed it down to the cylinder. Another man or two would stand on the strawstack and spread the straw, since the early threshing machine had no blower. Grain came down from a tall bagger and scale, through a long pipe and into the farmer's sack. Later better tractors and threshing machines cut down some of the menial labor. Today we have sophisticated farm equipment, including the air-conditioned tractor and combine. Originally a farmer could start out "on a shoestring" but today much capital is required to operate a farm.

Some of the early steam tractors were Hart-Parr, Rumely, Oliver and Case. They say it was the McCormick-Deering 15-30 tractor that broke up Western Canada. It had steel lugs and ran on gasoline.

The stone quern, the millstones, were fashioned from rock. The top round stone rotated over the bottom one, as it was turned by hand. Grain was dropped in the centre hole, and the flour, bran and all, came out at the sides, to be collected in pails or sacks. It was a tedious process, but "necessity being the mother of invention", it produced the desired results.

In the summertime wild fruit was abundant. Strawberries, raspberries, gooseberries, blueberries, saskatoons, chokecherries, pincherries, high bush cranberries and loganberries grew quite profusely. The fruit was either eaten fresh or canned for preserves or jam. Our belts held up the pails while we picked raspberries, chokecherries, and saskatoons. Eating chokecherries with stones could be painful as some of us discovered.

Wild meat was readily obtainable. ruffed grouse, prairie chicken and duck were quite common. My father used a 12-gauge shotgun with home-made shells to kill the wild rabbits and birds. There was no closed season then.

Many farmers had a sod-roofed root house. In it were stored cream, potatoes, sauerkraut in barrels, and other vegetables. It was the first refrigeration plant.

Some people kept their cream cool by lowering it on a rope down an abandoned well. Another forerunner of our refrigeration.

Not all farmers had sawing or chop-making outifts. Usually one farmer in the neighborhood had the equipment and travelled from farm to farm, supplying the service. The wood-sawing bee was next to threshing. About six men were required, food was extra special and the comradeship was manifest.

Did you ever try to get some straw or hay off a stack in wintertime? Somehow you ended up trying to lift yourself up with the forkful of feed.

Waterwell

Coming from town with a team of horses in winter called for special precautions for the draft animals. They had to be covered with blankets and put in the barn. They were given a drink of water later, after they cooled themselves off.

Drawing water out of the well in winter was sometimes a cumbersome chore. The ice would cake the top portion of the cribbing, the rope would freeze and become rigid (a situation not natural for a rope), the pail would become unmanageable because of the coating of ice, and the pulley would sing an unpleasant and annoying tune. What was the remedy? The ice on the well had to be skilfully chipped away with a long-handled axe, and the pulley, rope, and bucket were taken to the house for a thawing and drying session. Today we realize that getting water from our tap is definietely an easier operation.

During the hard times the farmer would take cream and eggs to town to get some grocery money. The eggs were often placed in pails of oats to prevent breakage. The teamster had to watch the cream can so it would not turn over and do what it is not supposed to do.

A more recent episode with the cream occurred when it was transported in the trunk of a car. At the creamery the farmer discovered that the cream can had upset, opened, and rendered an eyesore spectacle. The result spelled plenty of tolerance and elbow-grease.

Now the versatile binder canvases. They were used for a variety of purposes:

a) They naturally were a part of the harvesting machine.
b) Old canvases covered new canvases on the binder.
c) Canvases covered walls of plastered homes and other buildings to prevent the rest of the clay from falling off in rainy weather, and simultaneously, to keep out the rain.
d) Canvases made suitable play tents for the children.
e) Canvases covered wagons filled with grain or chop or seed.

f) They made a suitable roof for a doghouse or a clucking hen domicile.

The Bennett buggy was a car pulled by horses. The economic upheaval of the 30's made driving expensive, so the farmer rigged up the drawing gear in front of his car so that his team could pull it, just like a wagon. The reins came in just under the swing-forward windshield. Equipped with a roof, the hybrid effected a fairly good ride.

Fall was a happy time because we could go hiding in or sliding down the straw pile. This meant getting a lot of straw and chaff down our neck and into our clothes, but this discomfort was more than compensated for by the fun the exercise provided.

Remember how crows would bunch up in the fall and we were sorry to see them go? Their departure signified the approach of winter. Then do you recall how glad you were to see them return in March, singly or in pairs? They were the first feathered harbingers of spring. But the crow was considered a pest and had to be eradicated. That is why the government placed a bounty for its destruction.

The oxen were stubborn draft animals. They detested flies, especially the hell, bot, or horse fly. To escape the wretched insects, they would go into the slough, or among some saplings and pull the mower behind them. The farmer spent a long time trying to coax them out and extricate them from their predicament.

To keep horses from wandering too far from the farmyard, it was necessary to put hobbles on them. This was a contraption of leather and buckles, similar to handcuffs, that was placed around the horse's front ankles to impede his movement. He could leap but he could not run nor walk fast.

Buffalo wallows were still evident in the early 1900's. These were usually sandy places, hollowed out as the buffalo "tore up the dirt" as was his inclination at a certain time of the year.

Mosquitoes were a terrible nuisance. To keep the pests away from livestock, the farmer made a smudge — wood, green grass or manure — to make a lot of smoke. Insects do not like smoke but livestock does not mind it.

In the late 20's the caterpillar scourge hit this area. Our teacher would have us pick off the school so many caterpillars and drop them into a can — five caterpillars for one mistake in arithmetic, 25 caterpillars for not doing our homework and so on. Did the punishment fit the crime? At that time nobody questioned it. Times have changed — let's hope, for the better.

Plowing, discing or harrowing invariably encouraged a lot of seagulls to follow the equipment. The birds picked up cutworms, other grubs, and small gophers. Even today one usually sees a sea of white birds in the field, following our big tillage implements.

Prairie fires were a real threat. A fire guard of 10 furrows, then a burned-off strip, and then another 10 furrows was usually quite expedient. Many settlers lost their effects because of this creeping and devouring monster.

Soap holes were found one-half mile north of Hairy Hill, one mile east of Ranfurly, nine miles north-west of Mannville, and other places. These were muskeg areas with a seemingly "no bottom". In the early days they spelled death to some livestock and even to a few people.

Sometimes the bull became a ferocious animal. The rural area witnessed the death of several well-known farmers, gored by a mad bull. Others had a very narrow escape from this fickle animal. The children were always cautioned to stay at a respectable distance from this sometimes explosive character.

As a young lad I was deathly scared of Indians and gypsies. To make us stay close to the house while she did the farm chores, mother would tell us not to wander away or else "the Indians will get you." I recall seeing the Indians pass our place one day. I went through a barbed wire fence in record time. Nobody knew the meaning of "babysitter" and something else had to be used.

There was a time when livestock buyers went around the country buying cattle. If the purchase was made "on the hoof," the farmer was obliged to chase the cattle to market, usually the nearest town, which could be ten miles away. Other farmers along the way, who had made similar sales, drove their cattle out too, to join the ever-expanding herd. By the time the town was reached, there was much bellowing and stampeding. The exercise savored of a western movie.

The pedlar, driving into the yard, was greeted with mixed feelings. Children waited in anticipation while the farmer and his wife sometimes wished he hadn't come. Money was usually scarce. But the Raleighs or Watkins men usually had something the people wanted, like the cure-all ointment, the best shampoo, the top-notch pepper. Usually the farmer paid for these in kind, like eggs, or chickens. The children always got some candy. The newspaper salesman also sold subscriptions by the same means of exchange — the paper for two chickens. If darkness was approaching, the pedlar was usually invited to spend the night and get a meal free. The people were usually poor in wealth, but wealthy in charity.

Remember how father shaved with a straight razor, usually on Sunday morning? Vigorous play or noise was strictly taboo; otherwise he could cut himself. Children were on their best behaviour when dad pulled the razor ever so gently, all the while distorting his face to facilitate shaving the different regions. No matter how careful he was and no matter how silent the children were, there were times when he would sustain a nick here and there. To prevent bleeding he would put bits of cigarette paper to the affected spots. Today a safety razor and the electric razor do the job quickly and safely.

My father was a well-driller. Whether he practised "witching water" or "water divining" I do not remember, but some people professed to be well-water locators, according to the art. They would use a forked willow or some other comparable gadget and claim to locate water, so that the well-driller would have a sure bet.

Some roadwork was done, in lieu of farm taxes. There were two reasons for this: farmers did not have enough money, and somebody had to build the roads. This arrangement proved practical for approximately fifty years.

To build and maintain their roads the pioneer farmers used special equipment. A slip drawn by two horses and a fresno, usually pulled by four horses, carried the dirt from a plowed area, usually a hill, or land on the side, to a lower area to fill up the depression and thus make up a type of grade which would make travelling less arduous. The scrapers required dexterity in handling. If one was not careful, the scraper could swing up upon encountering an obstacle and could inflict serious injury. Later a drag, a heavy framework with blades put at an angle and drawn by horses, did a good job of maintaining the roads.

A doctor or nurse would come to the school periodically to inoculate or vaccinate the students and pre-school children. What wailing and screaming! Candy and peanuts usually soothed their painful experience.

In the 1920's and 30's the children could make some spending money. The municipality paid 1¢ for each gopher tail, 1¢ for each crow or magpie egg and 2¢ for each pair of crow or magpie feet. Of course, the gophers, crows and magpies had to be dead. Some of the boys were lucky to make more money by trapping or snaring muskrats, weasels, rabbits, and an occasional coyote.

Fifty years ago the seneca (plant) was quite plentiful in our country. It was a sturdy plant, about a foot high, with few leaves and small white flowers. We dug up and dried its roots and sold them in town for so much a pound. To make a pound required the destruction of many plants. The roots were used for medicinal purposes, supposedly for snake-bite.

I remember going barefooted for the cows early in the morning. By the time I located them, my feet would be quite cold. I used the cow to warm my feet. I would make her get up, and I would stand on the spot where she spent the night, thus bringing much relief to my frigid limbs.

Many of the children in the 20's and 30's walked barefooted to school. Sometimes they would carry their shoes and put them on when they got to school. In wintertime, the other extreme was impertive: heavy woollen socks to keep out the cold.

The boys' pastime consisted of playing marbles or softball. In town, boys sometimes rolled a tire or truck wheel hoop, a sport that called for expertise in a race. Games commonly played in early schools were: Pom, Pom Pull Away; Prisoner's Base; Anti-I-Over; softball; Baseball; and Fox and Geese.

Snowdrifts provided the material for snowhouses and caves. The caves could be scooped out with a shovel or bare hands. It lasted till it was blown over, or till some bigger children or siblings attacked its roof by jumping on it. Children, whether at home or in school, played outside a lot and invented their own games. Organized sport and sophisticated equipment were a distant phenomenon.

No matter how tall our rubber boots were, they were never tall enough. Not to be outdone by any of our peers, we waded into water, so deep that it filled our boots. Our sense of victory overshadowed our discomfort. Spring was one season that provided this rare opportunity.

Although the summer months were school holidays, some of us spent some time picking up a different type of education. The priests and sisters taught catechism in the local school or hall, and we spent about a week learning the rudiments of religion. We were taught good manners and Christian ethics.

At my grandparent's place, I often looked through a stereoscope — a viewer where two pictures merged into one. The gadget was very fascinating. It was the forerunner of our other visual machines.

The annual community picnic attracted a varied crowd. People young and old, rich and poor, all came to the picnic on a sort of holiday. Baseball, races, confectionary booth, and opportunity for fraternization — all these were drawing cards. It was at the early district picnic that the young boys and girls usually had their annual sample of ice cream.

Christmas was a big celebration, too slow in coming. Visits to our grandparents were a "must". Nuts and candy were always handed out to the children and grandchildren. Food of top cuisine was relished by all. Everybody sang carols and the spirit of camaraderie was ever so evident.

The Christmas Concert at school or hall was always looked forward to. Children were on their best behaviour and parents were proud of the little darlings. Carols, songs, plays, skits, recitations and pantomimes were the usual program items. To close the evening on a very positive note, Santa Claus handed out presents to the little people. Districts staggered the dates of the concerts so that more people could attend.

The Spanish influenza of late 1918 decimated the population in many districts. The disease was characterized by a very high fever, a very bad headache and extreme delirium. Mention is made of cases where the people were afraid to bury the corpses, else they succumb to the malady. The epidemic followed World War I. There was also a very severe drought that summer, a situation conducive to spreading of disease germs.

The year 1919 is noted for another affliction: on the night of July 23 the country was hit by a severe frost — 10° of frost (22°F). There were instances where the thatch from roofs was fed to starving cattle. Many farmers contracted a debt at that time when they were forced to buy feed at exorbitant prices. And to make matters worse, many of the cattle died the following spring. Even strong men cried. We have instances where that debt was not paid off till World War II, with "blood money", as some called it. Remember that the 1920's were not such profitable years, while the 1930's witnessed the worldwide economic depression — sometimes called the Hungry Thirties, and sometimes the Dirty Thirties.

The winter of 1930-31 was a very mild one. There was no snow till March. That was one Chrismas that could not be called "White Christmas".

The year 1947 witnessed one of the biggest storms in hail history. The storm started by Wetaskiwin, went through Royal Park, south of Two Hills and ended up in northern Saskatchewan, covering an area from six to eight miles wide and nearly 200 miles long. Crops were destroyed and buildings were damaged.

We shall all remember the storm of March 17, 1951. The storm raged for close to three days and, in some places, snowdrifts reached up to the telephone wires. After the storm I was able to walk right across the telephone wires, a feat not often executed. The municipal elections held at that time were, in some cases, declared null and void, because even the deputy returning officer couldn't make it to the polling place.

Some remarks about the early schools would not be out of place. In the early part of the century many teachers taught on permit. Some tried to teach without the proper qualifications and were released by the department of education official.

In most Ukrainian settlements children spoke the mother tongue and had a difficult time speaking English in school. They were punished if they were caught talking Ukrainian.

The school was usually a one-roomed building with windows on one or two sides. A pot-bellied heater, encircled by a jacket, supplied the heat, mostly in one end or corner. The length of stovepipe from the back of the room to the chimney in front was supposed to distribute more heat. The room had a platform in front, some maps in a case, a globe, a big Webster dictionary, a pail or water fountain, a flag, a pendelum wall clock, some cups, some library books, and a pencil sharpener. The seats were double, either anchored to the floor or bolted onto narrow boards for maneuverability. Children sat facing the blackboard, with the light coming over the left shoulder.

Children brought lunches in lard or syrup cans and tea in mazola oil bottles. Lunch consisted of buttered bread and boiled eggs. Sometimes jam was in evidence, especially around threshing time. An apple or orange was a welcome addition to a rather monotonous fare.

The barn in the schoolyard was used often, especially in wintertime. Children came by sleigh or cutters at a season when horses were relieved of some of the heavy farm work. Since the barn was not cleaned often, old dobbin sometimes had his posterior way higher than his anterior. Did this position interfere with his digestion?

The health nurse came around about once a year to check up on cleanliness. Lice were sometimes discovered in some children's hair. The nurse recommended a fine-toothed comb and coal oil for exterminating the ticks. An embarrassing situation but it happened!

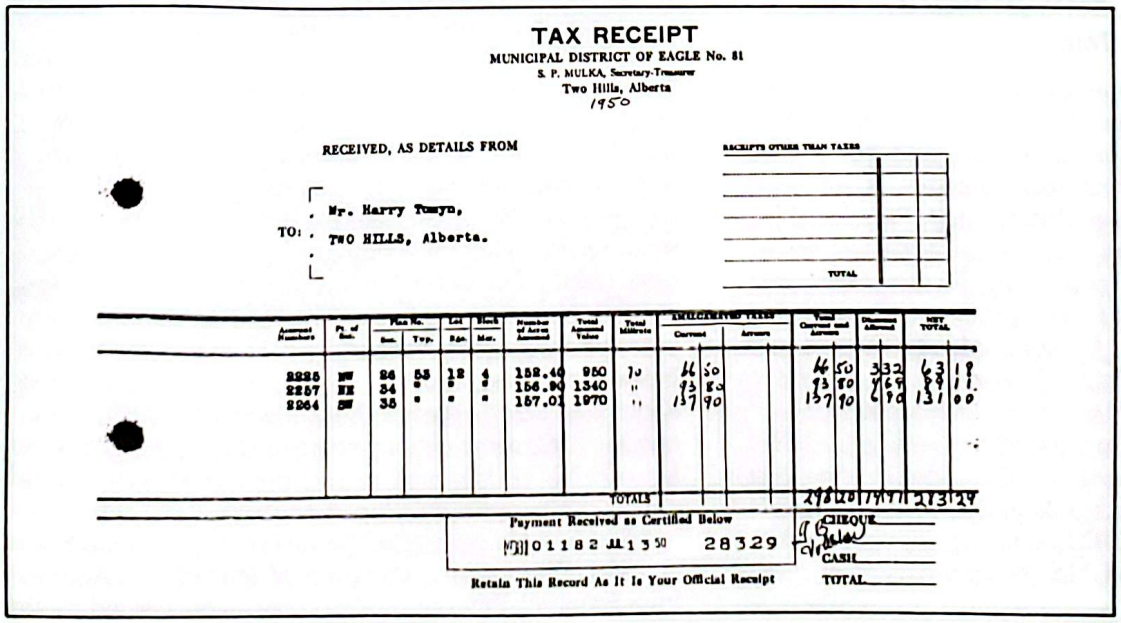
My first car ride was given to me by my first teacher. P.M. Shavchook came to teach in our school when he was 17 years old. He drove his car down the hill about fifteen miles an hour, a speed much too fast for his favorite grade one pupil. Coming back from the store, I found the ride less hair-raising.

Because of the absence of halls in the vicinity, many schools were used for different functions. Christmas concerts, meetings, dances, weddings, pie socials, box or basket socials, elections, parties, dramas, and selling shadows — these were the activities held in the school, and one would surmise that not always did they lend themselves to education.

Times were different in the early days. The lantern in the window was a beacon for homestead-seeking settlers and other travellers. The door was usually unlocked. Today we lock our doors, and draw our drapes. How times have changed!

Yet often I get nostalgic for the good old days when ruggedness was an absolute ingredient for survival.

There is something nice about pioneering.



TAX RECEIPT

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF EAGLE No. 81

S. P. MULKA, Secretary-Treasurer

Two Hills, Alberta

1950

RECEIVED, AS DETAILS FROM

TO: Mr. Harry Tomyn, TWO HILLS, Alberta.

RECEIPTS OTHER THAN TAXES

TOTAL

Assessment Number	Pt. of Sec.	Plan No. Sec.	Plan No. Twp.	Lot Sub.	Block Mer.	Number of Acres Assessed	Total Assessed Value	Total Mill Rate	Taxes Levied Current	Taxes Levied Arrears	Total Current and Arrears	Discounts Allowed	NET TOTAL
2225	NW	26	53	12	4	158.40	950	70	66 50		66 50	3 32	63 18
2257	NE	34	"	"	"	156.80	1340	"	93 80		93 80	4 69	89 11
2264	SW	35	"	"	"	157.01	1970	"	137 90		137 90	6 90	131 00
								TOTALS			298 20	14 91	283 29

Payment Received as Certified Below

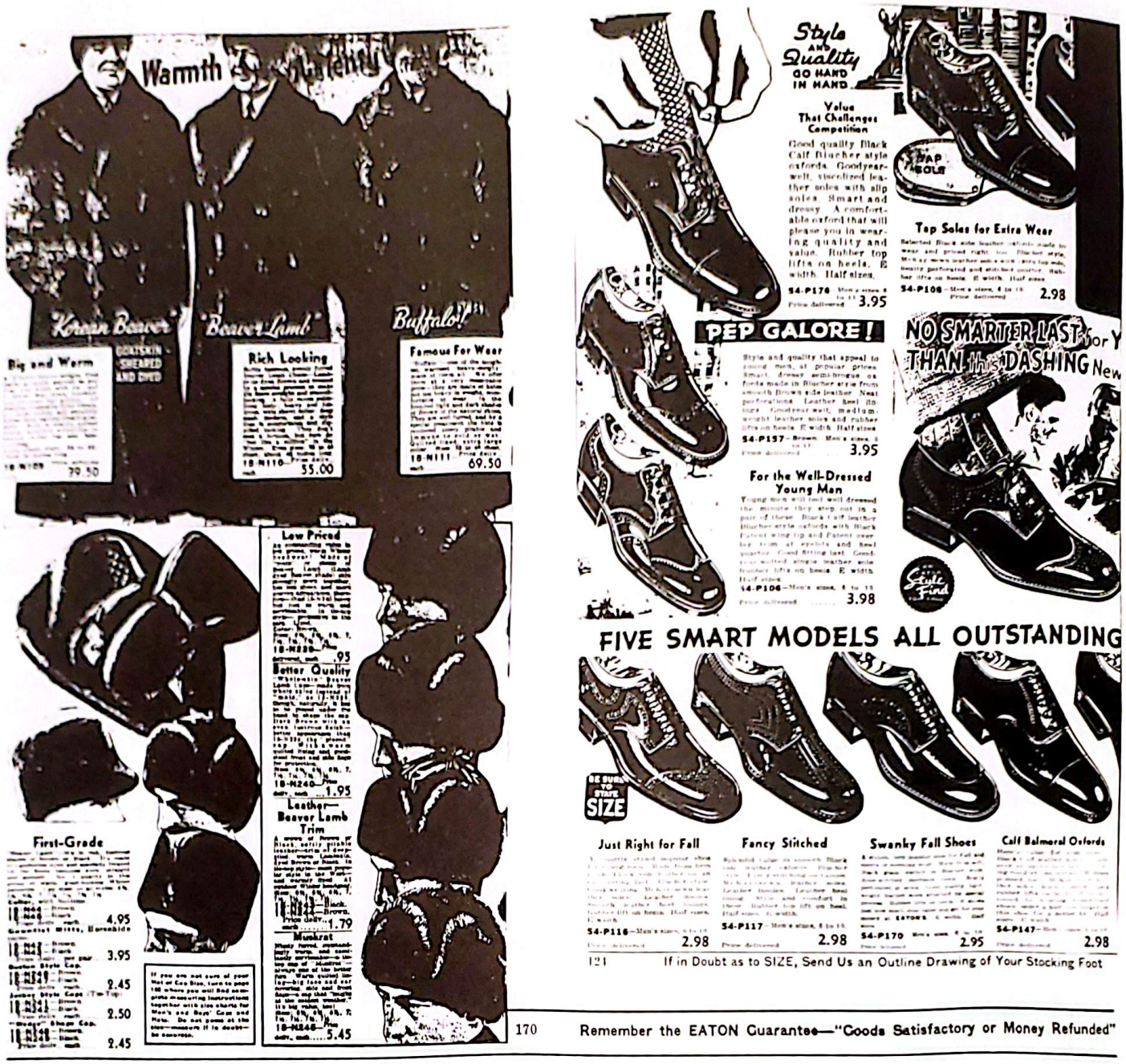
⑈01182 ⑈13 50 28329

CHEQUE

CASH

TOTAL

Retain This Record As It Is Your Official Receipt



HARRY AND ANNIE TOMYN FAMILY

by Michael H. Tomyn

Harry Tomyn was born on January 14, 1889, in the village of Skowiatyn, county of Broschiw in Western Ukraine. he was the son of Daniel and Hafia (nee Muzyka) Tomyn who had four children: Anna (Mrs. Jacob Haluschak), Maxim, Harry, and Paraska (Mrs. Mike Lysakowsko). After his first wife passed away, Daniel married Tetiana Torchyniuk. To this union were born two sons, Peter and Fred, born in the Ukraine, and four daughters born in Canada: Magda (Mrs. Louis Petasky), Elena (Mrs. Peter Weleschuk), Bessie (Mrs. John Hancheruk), and Mary (Mrs. Nick Marianych).

The Tomyn family emigrated to Canada in 1899, and settled in the Wostok district, close to the first Ukrainian settlement at Edna (later Star), Alberta. Daniel passed away on May 7, 1934, at the age of ninety, while his wife Tetania outlived him by approximately thirty years.

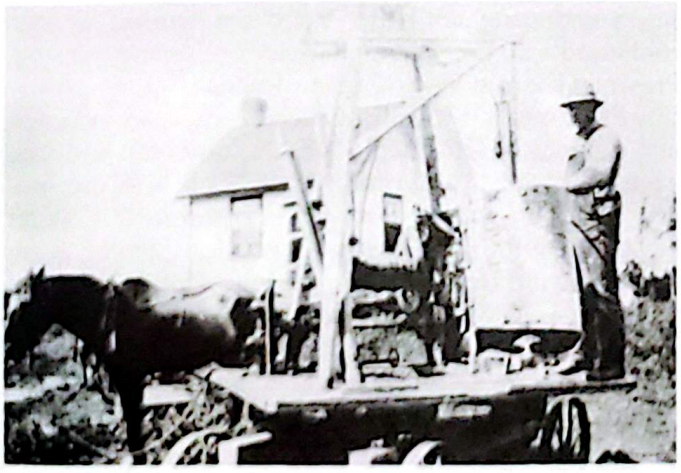
Pioneer life was difficult and it was necessary for some family members to work out to earn money for immediate essentials. When Harry grew up, he worked on the extra gang (railroad) and at other construction jobs, but his heart was set on farming. On March 1, 1906, at the age of seventeen, he purchased a homestead — NE 34-53-12-W4th, in the Plain Lake district, in the same section where his brother Maxim owned a homestead (SW). To prove up on the homestead,he was obliged, by statute, to live on the land six months every year for three years, show signs of improvement like building a house, fencing, digging a well, and plowing about five acres a year. These Harry did and became owner of 160 acres of homestead land for the registration fee of $10.00. He lived at this brother Maxim's place during the time he developed his farm.

In 1914 Harry married Annie Petasky who was born in 1899. She was the daughter of Marcin and Antonia (nee Ezinitski) Petasky of Plain lake, who resided three

Harry and Annie Tomyn in 1953

miles west of his homestead. Harry and Annie were blessed with six children, four sons and two daughters: Michael, Katie, Steve, Mary, Peter and Alec.

In the 1910's and 1920's, the farmers made long trips to Lavoy or Vegreville, a distance of twenty to twenty-five miles, to haul their produce to market and to buy groceries, clothes, etc. Mail was first obtained from Warwick, and later from the Plain Lake post office. The country was dotted with small rural stores where some essentials could be bought or traded for in kind. Flour was made from wheat hauled to the flour mill at Vegreville or Mundare. In 1928, when the C.P. Railway went through Two Hills, the trips to town were shorter, more frequent, and less arduous.



Harry Tomyn's well-drilling machine — 1921.

In 1924 Harry and Annie felt that the possibility of making out a good living on one quarter-section of rocky land was remote, so they sold their livestock and machinery (by auctioneer James Stanton of Vegreville) and moved to Vegreville to operate a livery barn situated just north of the Alberta Pool elevator. Business was brisk. Farmers from as far north as the North Saskatchewan River came to Vegreville to sell and buy, and had to billet their horses in barns and stables. Within a short time the barn burned down, but within a few months a new one was built and was ready for business. The two older children, Michael and Katie, attended Vegreville Public School where James McCrea was principal. With five growing children, Harry and Annie had their hands full, keeping track of their brood, some of whom could be found anywhere, even on top of an elevator annex, since the novelty of town life really fascinated them. In late 1925 Harry heard via grapevine that a railway was to be built through Willingdon, Two Hills, and Myrnam, and he immediately realized that his livery barn business could go "belly up"; so he sold his property and back to the farm went the Tomyn family. Of course, Harry had made some money, so he added another one and a half quarter-sections to his farm holdings. The debt on this land was not retired until World War II. The children then attended Plain Lake School — a one-room institution till

Harry and Annie Tomyn Family. Children (back row, left to right), Peter, Steve, Michael, Katie, Mary, and Alec in between his parents.

1929, and then a two-room school that handled grades one to ten, and sometimes to grade eleven. Three teachers who taught the longest at Plain Lake School were William Tomyn in the one-room school, and Bill and Mary Kindrachuk in the two-room. Harry Tomyn was on the Plain Lake School Board, and was Chairman of the Board when the two-room school was built. All children completed grade eleven by staying at home and attending the two-room school.

In the early 1920's Harry was a well-driller. Many of the wells in the Two Hills area were drilled by him. The motive power for the machine was horse "Bob".

In 1932 Harry was appointed assessor for the M.D. of Sobor. (His brother Maxim was secretary-treasurer of that municipality for approximately thirty years). Being

an assessor was a delicate job. The economic recession was rampant, people had no or very little money, and taxes were piling up. The assessor had to walk a precarious rope — he had to appease the farmer on one hand, and provide enough money for the coffers of the muncipality on the other. Although the job taxed brawn and sinew, Harry found it very rewarding in terms of so many understanding people he had met. We must remember, however, that people, as a rule, don't like the taxman. Harry explained (with tongue in cheek) that one could not escape two things in life — death and taxes. His transportation medium, his horse "Skeena", was literally "driven into the ground."

The Tomyn family belonged to the Plain Lake Ukrainian Catholic parish, and assisted it as best they could. Harry was always keenly interested in politics. He also valued education greatly and sacrificed a lot to put some of his children through higher institutions of learning.

Harry was self-taught, and could read English and Ukrainian quite fluently. The postmaster complained (under his breath) that Harry subscribed to more newspapers and magazines than most people. This reading "bit", no doubt, rubbed off on his children.

Annie, Harry's wife, kept busy with what most pioneer farm women did: raising children, washing, preparing meals, sewing and mending, doctoring and nursing, gardening, milking cows, tending livestock and poultry, helping with fieldwork, plastering buildings, and looking after countless other everyday chores. Perhaps she often wondered about who invented pioneer motherhood. At present she rests on her laurels at the old-age home.

Harry and Annie raised a progeny that has left its mark on society.

Michael, the oldest son and first child, is a school teacher and principal, living in Vegreville. He has taught for forty-four years, thirty-four of which were in administration. He married Georgina Melnyk of Innisfree and to their union were born five children: Michael George, Anna, Harry, Lillian, and Ted. Michael George is a provincial court judge, living in Edmonton. His wife, Kathy Samoil, is a school teacher in the city. Michael G. and Kathy have three daugthers: Karen, Patricia, and Maureen. Anna is a school teacher in Mission, B.C. and her husband, Terry Wright, is a custodian of one of the Mission schools. Anna and Terry have two sons, Gene and Vicnent. Harry is a lawyer in Vancouver, and his wife Kerry (nee Lukenchuk) works for the B.C. government. Lillian is a social worker and University of Alberta librarian in Edmonton. Ted is an electronics technician in Calgary. After the family grew up, Georgina became a teachers' aide and librarian at one Vegreville elementary school.

Katie married Bill Hnydyk and the couple was blessed with two children, Billy and Roseanne. Billy is a medical doctor, is married and lives in Vegreville. His wife, Betty, is a school teacher (not teaching now). Billy and Bettie have two children: daughter Tiffany and son Christopher. Roseanne is a school teacher and vice-principal in Edmonton. Bill was a farmer, then an elevator agent, and later he worked for the Two Hills Chemical Company for twenty-one years. He passed away in June, 1979. Katie, who was a cashier for twenty-one years, is now retired and continues to reside in Two Hills.

Steve Tomyn (R.C.A.F.), holding his nephew Michael G. Tomyn, in 1942.

Steve joined the R.C.A.F. during World War II and paid the supreme sacrifice in April, 1943. His name is enshrined on the cenotaph located on Two Hills main street.

Mary married Edward Teresio, formerly a farmer and now a trucker. They live at Two Hills. The couple has three daughters: Iris, Helene, and Betty. Iris married George Dame who is a school teacher in Edmonton. They have three children: two daughters, Maria and Joanna, and son Georgie. Helene married Harry Meyers, and they operate a big market garden at Cochin, not far from North Battleford. They have two children, son Jason and daughter Kelly. Betty has worked at jobs connected with horticulture, livestock sales and trucking. Presently she resides at Grande Prairie.

Peter married Mary Bohaychuk. He is an industrial firm supervisor. The couple lives in Edmonton and they have two children, Dale and Rosalie. Dale is an automotive partsman in Edmonton. Rosalie married Stuart Litwinowich; they reside in Edmonton. Stuart is an electrician and Rosalie a hospital unit clerk. Rosalie and Stuart have two sons, Joshua and Jesse.

Alec, the youngest son of Harry and Annie, and the only one born in the hospital at Vegreville when his parents resided there, helped his parents with farming for some time. He married Love Myroniuk and presently they live in Edmonton. Alec works with C.P.R. Express and Love is a store clerk. They have two children, Randy and Rita. Randy is an accountant and music teacher and resides in Edmonton. Rita married Dick Jacobs. Rita is a bank teller and Dick is a court recorder; they live in Edmonton. They have one son, Brandon Richard.

In the late 1940's, due to ill health, Harry retired from farming and he and his wife moved to Two Hills. Harry passed away in February, 1953, at the age of sixty-four. Annie sold her home and built a new one

Harry Tomyn Farmstead, 1948. This yard is gone now; the Hutterite cemetary is located just to the right.

where she lived until the early 1970's. Since then she has resided at the Vegreville Homestead Lodge, a Senior Citizens' Home. Still enjoying fair health, she appreciates the visits of her five surviving children, her fourteen grandchildren and her fifteen great-grandchildren. She does miss her Two Hills friends.

Today the former Tomyn land is all Plain Lake Hutterite farmland. The Hutterite farmstead is across the road from H. Tomyn's original farmyard (there is no trace of it now).

When a Tomyn member travels by that place now, his reminiscences give way to nostalgia and resignation.

MAXIM TOMYN — PIONEER MUNICIPAL AND SCHOOL SECRETARY — TREASURER

by Mike Tomyn

Copied with permission from the book History of Two Hills, 1978, by Stephen Urchak & Nick Buk.

Maxim Tomyn was born March 12, 1881, in the Village of Skowiatyn in the County of Borschiw, Western Ukraine. It is likely that he attended the elementary school, although the amount of schooling that he acquired there was minimal. In 1899 his parents decided to emigrate to Canada. On arrival they settled in the district, which later was given the name of Edna, now known as Star, on the 12th of July. The Edna Colony was the first Ukrainian settlement founded in Canada by Iwan Pylypiw and Wasyl Eleniak in 1891.

Maxim Tomyn lived with his parents until 1904. On the 30th of May of that same year, he married Anastasia Boychuk, also of Edna. Soon after the wedding the young couple travelled to their future home in what is now known as the Plain Lake District. The homestead, to which Maxim Tomyn claimed title, is located close to the north shore of Plain Lake. This farm continued to be Maxim's home until his death.

Maxim and his bride began their life on the homestead just like hundreds of other settlers. But he had other ambitions. He realized that in order to succeed in Canada, a person must have a good knowledge of the English language both oral and written. He bought a Ukrainian-English dictionary and an English grammar book. Maxim spent all his free time learning the English words and using them to form sentences. After weeks of concentrated study, he was able to read English newspapers and carry on a conversation in the English languge.

By 1905 the district had become fully settled and a need arose for some form of local government. The Two Hills area was also a part of the Local Improvement District, but as the population had increased, the boundaries were modified, and in 1909 the taxpayers were enfranchised to elect a councillor for the new Local Improvement District. The first councillor to be elected for this position was quite naturally Maxim Tomyn.

The Plain Lake Post Office was opened and Maxim Tomyn became the first postmaster in 1908.

In 1911, when the structure of the Local Improvement District was altered, Maxim Tomyn was appointed secretary-treasurer.

Besides farming, Maxim Tomyn found time to organize several school districts, and in time he became secretary-treasurer of the following school districts: Chornick, Krasne, Nizir, Plain lake, Pobeda, Russia, Two Hills and Wolia. He visited these schools and he became acquainted with the teachers and was well-known by the pupils.

Mr. & Mrs. Maxim Tomyn (1940).

Maxim Tomyn, who had no formal education, liked to reminisce on the lighter side about some of his experiences as a school secretary-treasurer. The school teachers of those years were not as well-qualified as they are today. Some of them had not even completed grade ten. At least one such teacher had some difficulty in keeping records in the school register, and he called upon Mr. Tomyn for assistance in filling out the various forms. "I was glad to oblige him," Mr. Tomyn said with a chuckle.

Maxim Tomyn was the co-founder of the Plain Lake community and a prominent leader in the field of religion. As a leader of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Parish, he was admired and respected by the clergy and the laymen alike. It was through his initiative that a magnificent church building was erected in the Plain lake District some fifty years ago.

Not only was Maxim a farmer but he was also a municipal policy-maker, a municipal councillor and an intepreter of official documents. Acting as a legal adviser, he helped hundreds of ratepayers with their problems such as acquiring citizenship papers, land titles, and old age pensions and he looked after correspondence of all kinds. There was a common saying among settlers: "If you have a problem, see Maxim Tomyn."

His knowledge of the operation of municipal government was equal to that of any senior official in the government ranks. Although he was only a municipal secretary-treasurer, actually he was more than that. He was a municipal administrator, and as such he kept a watchful eye on the purse strings of the municipality. These and other activites are synonymous with the name of Maxim Tomyn.

Maxim Tomyn was well-known not only in his neighborhood but far beyond the boundaries of his home territory: in the corridors of the Legislative Building, in the organization of The Association of the Alberta Municipalities, and among prominent people of the neighboring towns of Vegreville, Lamont, Mundare, and other places.

In 1911 the structure of the Local Improvement District was altered once more, but Maxim Tomyn remained secretary-treasurer. A short time later the area was organized into the Municipal District of Sobor No. 514. Again Maxim Tomyn was re-appointed to serve in the same capacity.

As far back as the year 1917, tribute was paid to Maxim Tomyn by Miss Chisholm, a Vegreville school teacher. In speaking to her class one day she made the following observation: "I know a man who occupies an important position in the community. He had no formal education. He could not read, write or speak the English language. Yet in a matter of months he trained himself to such an extent that he is not only the secretary-treasurer of a municipality but also secretary-treasurer of a number of school districts. His name is Maxim Tomyn."

In the year 1938 the Municipality of Sobor, of which Maxim Tomyn was secretary-treasurer, found itself in financial difficulties. This was during the great depression, during which time all municipalities went bankrupt. But to make matters still worse, some of the councillors in the Sobor Municipality were suspected of using their office for personal gain. The taxpayers became indignant and began to agitate for the resignation of the councillors. A mass meeting of the ratepayers was called, and it became a bedlam of charges and countercharges, accusations and alibis. The minutes of that meeting were forwarded to the Department of Municipal Affairs whereupon the Minister promptly suspended the whole council and appointed an administrator to direct the affairs of the municipality. Through all the turmoil Maxim Tomyn's integrity was never questioned and he continued in his capacity as secretary-treasurer, taking his orders now from the administrator instead of the council. He continued to hold that office until his death on January 4, 1941.

PAUL TESSIER

by Angele Laboucane

Mr. Jeremie Lapierre, father of Olivine, came to Duvernay in 1903, and homesteaded NE¼ 20-55-12-W4th. He came from St. Angele de Manoir, Quebec. There he raised eight children.

In 1929 Olivine left home and married Paul Tessier in October. They lived in Inland, Alberta and had three children there. In March 1938 they came to Duvernay and had two more children. After farming here for 17 years they moved to Edmonton. Paul passed away March 10, 1971.

The children were:

Rosaire — married Rita Gobeil January 4, 1956 and they have 5 children.

Albert — married Therese Peltier February 3, 1957.

Angele — married Herb Laboucane and has 8 children.

Rita — married Ernest October 28, 1952. They have 9 children.

Cecile — married Blackburn February 13, 1971.

Rosaire and Albert had a radio shop in South Edmonton for about 25 years.

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Tessier and family: Rita, Albert, Rosaire, Cecile and Angele.

PIONEER HISTORY OF ALEC (ELIE) & MARY TERNOVOY

Mr. Alec Ternovoy was born in 1880 in Russia and at the age of 22 served in the Russian Navy for three years. In 1905 he moved to Romania where he and his wife Mary lived for seven years and had four children. He learned the Romanian language and was employed as an electrician in a Coal Oil Refinery Plant owned by Mr. Rockerfeller of the United States.

Mr. & Mrs. Ternovoy, with their four children and seven other families, decided to move to Canada in 1912. After sailing ten long days and nights they landed in Halifax. Not being able to speak English, it was very hard for them to communicate. The eight families then decided to go to British Columbia and try group farming. They bought some land but soon found the timbers too large and soil unfavourable for grain farming. Four of the eight families decided to leave British Columbia and came to Alberta.

Mr. and Mrs. Alex Ternovoy in 1936.

The four families each settled on a separate homestead close to one another approximately seven miles southeast of Bellis. They helped each other build houses from logs plastered with clay and sod roofs in order to have shelter for their children and themselves. They had no equipment so they had to haul these logs on their backs, some times for quite a distance.

The following year Mr. Alec Ternovoy and his wife Mary, with the help of their older children, began clearing some land. They began communicating with the earlier settlers and quickly picked up the Ukrainian language. They managed to get some help from these earlier settlers who had a team of horses and a walking plow in order to break a patch of land to be able to make a garden. In order to pay back the time and the use of the horses, he had to walk to work to Wahstao, about ten miles in the morning, returning late at night with a little bit of flour in a sack and maybe a dollar or two in the pocket. Mary Ternovoy also walked to work to a neighbors garden to help bring in food for the growing family. Most of the time the jobs Alec Ternovoy could get was digging wells or putting up log buildings as he was a strong man and could do heavy lifting jobs.

The homestead they settled on was poor farmland, the east half was white and gray soil and very rocky; the west half was sandy with jackpines. There was a school house built in the district in 1915 but it was three miles away. The children could not go to school in the winter as they did not have proper clothing to struggle through the bush trails. In the summertime they had to contend with bears in this area and it was very dangerous for the small children to walk unprotected through these trails. The times were hard but there was a child born every two years. The nearest doctor was miles away and they nursed their own children through plagues and flu virus with home remedies and a lot of prayers.

After the first World War, the Government began lending money to farmers to aid in the purchase of cattle so Alec Ternovoy obtained a loan and gave his homestead as security. The following year there was a terrible feed shortage. Hay had to be hauled in from neighboring provinces by train which was slow and very expensive. The cattle were starving and were even eating young willows and bark off trees. Towards spring the farmers had to tear down thatched roofs off their homes and buildings in order to provide food for their starving cattle. The hay was moldy and musty, the cattle got sick and most of them died. In the spring whatever cattle were left, the farmers herded them together and sold them. From the ten head of cattle Alec Ternovoy sold, he netted $87. He could not repay the loan, much less even feed his growing family so in 1923, he lost his homestead. He then rented a quarter section of land about ten miles southwest of Bellis and he and his wife and six children moved their belongings where they lived for three years. By then the two older girls were married, (Mary) Mrs. Frank Melnyk and (Pearl) Mrs. John G. Huculak, both lived in Bellis. In 1925 he bought a quarter section of CPR land in the Foisy district (NE 19-56-11-W4th) and in 1926 moved his family to his new home and began clearing and breaking some land with the help of his three older boys, Bill, Mike and Alec. They built a small house, a barn and dug a well. Hard times as they were, they still raised ten children, five girls and five boys.

After the depression of the 30's, and times got a little better Alec Ternovoy decided to build a bigger home. By now the children were grown up and one by one got married and moved on their own.

(Annie) Mrs. Wm. Skoreyko is living in Amisk, Alberta, (Bill) and wife Yvette are living in Edmonton, the late Alec and wife Annie of Prince Rupert, B.C., (Nida) Mrs. Adam Skakun living in St. Paul, Alberta, (Rita) Mrs. Henry Foisy living in Edmonton, (Metro and wife Vera living in Edmonton. One son, Johnny, passed away in 1929 at the age of eight years.

After the youngest child got married Mr. & Mrs. Ternovoy retired and moved to St. Paul, where they lived till their passing. Mrs. Mary Ternovoy passed away in 1952 at the age of 69 years.

Alec Ternovoy passed away in 1960 at the age of 80 years. He was survived by ten children and 28 grandchildren.

This story is written by Mike & Jean Ternovoy who lived through these times since 1913 and are still living in the Foisy district. They raised three children, Ernest, Gloria and Dwayne. Ernest & Gladys Ternovoy live in Foisy and have two children, Joanne & Elwood; David & Gloria Pundick live in Foisy and have two children, Sherilee & Clinton and Dwayne and Joanne Ternovoy live in St. Paul.

MR. & MRS. ROBERT TAYLOR

by Helen Littlechild

Robert Taylor was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, May 23, 1873.

Christibel Taylor (Monkman) was born in Prince Albert, Sask., Jan. 14, 1874.

Robert & Christibel were married at Clover Bar, Alberta, July 19, 1893. They lived at Prince Albert, Sask. until 1899, coming west by wagon and ox carts with their family and belongings, to the Whitford community. Grand-dad filed for a homestead at Whitford. He built a log shack with a sod roof and used moss to fill the open beams. Later finding out that Mr. A.M. Bouthillier had filed for the same land in Winnipeg, Robert (Bob) and family moved east of Mr. Tom Watt's in the Ben's Lake district, where they homesteaded. The land was cleared yearly for grains and garden. They raised cattle, hogs and chickens. All settlers at that time really had to work helping each other haying and harvesting.

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Taylor on their 50th wedding anniversary. 1943.

They raised a family of ten children, but two passed away at an early age. Gramma had the postoffice at Wattsford for twenty years. When the C.P.R. railroad went to Two Hills in 1927, my aunt, Edith Taylor, carried the mail on horseback to Kaleland residents. Then in 1929, the postoffice was moved to the town of Kaleland

Jos Brosseau, Mrs. Taylor and Bob Taylor, 65th Anniversary.

with Basil Theroux, George Bourget and a Mr. Redelle as mailmen bringing the mail from Vegreville to St. Paul with horses then, later by truck.

In the early 30's, the Greyhound bus travelled from Vegreville to St. Paul too. The Taylors' door was open to one and all. Their hospitality was unbounded and people who stopped there never forgot these friendly people. I recall hearing tales of a Corporal Harvey Brooks, N.W.M.P. who stayed there for days while attending to his duties in the district. He travelled on horseback. Others who were made welcome were the new-comers who were immigrating to Alberta. They would get off the train in Vegreville or Lavoy and walk north looking for work. They'd stop at Grandma's either to ask for a drink of water or a place to sleep overnight. They were welcome even if they had to sleep on the floor.

The pioneers were very enterprising in their habits and they were good providers. In later years, I (Helen Littlechild) can remember Gramma would sell one can of cream, then the next can would be made into butter for the winter. It was put away in earthenware crocks. The eggs were put in a brine for the winter use. They would butcher a hog and a steer for the winter's supply of meat. The menfolks would hunt for Canada geese, partridge and rabbits. They would bring wheat to the Vegreville flour mill in exchange for flour, bran and cream of wheat. Plenty of wild fruit were picked in the summer and preserved for the winter. This work was all done before the weather got too cold. Funtime came like the songs sez "When The Work's All Done this Fall", a wise philosophy in the days of pioneering.

When Two Hills started building the men and even the women, would go to Vegreville for lumber, take it to Two Hills for which they were paid. Those wages were most helpful.

On July 19th, they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on their old homestead. Then they retired from the homestead in 1945 with many happy memories to cherish in their golden years. Their 60th anniversary was celebrated at the home of their grandchildren, Clifford and Helen Littlechild of Whitford. Rev. Hooper of Vegreville presented them with diamond rings, remembrance of a life of fulfillment.

Their 68th was at their grandchildren's, Mr. and Mrs. Leo Rainbow in Edmonton — it happened to be the Old-Timers' day at the Exhibition. Mrs. Kay McKenzie of Vegreville had them taken to the Exhibition and they appeared on T.V. It was said that they were honoured with a pass from Mayor Roper of Edmonton. Some of us even had the pleasure of being with them for their 72nd anniversary.

They passed away on April 5th, 1966 in a Citizens' home on the south side in Edmonton within an hour of each other. They were laid to rest at Soda Lake Cemetery with Father Alcock officiating. They left to mourn their loss: 2 sons — Glen and Tommie; 5 daughters — Mrs. Eva Simpson (my mother), Mrs. Mary Nelson, Mrs. Nettie Hellerud, Mrs. Pearl Bourgette, Mrs. Edith Morgenson, — also 47 grandchildren; 150 great grandchildren and 22 great-great grandchildren; many nieces, nephews and lots of friends.

DENNIS URSULIAK

Dennis was the fifth son of Wasyl and Martha Ursuliak and was born July 5, 1920 in Shypenitz, Alta. In 1927 Dan attended school in Shypenitz finishing grade 4 in 1931 and Eli Taschuk and Vladimir Kupchenko as teachers. They then moved to Hairy Hill finishing grade 10 in 1937. His 2 teachers then were Nick Nadorak and Peter M. Shawchuk. He farmed with his dad till 1941 and then enrolled in the services. The first 2 months he was in Camrose, and then took his advance training in Brandon, Manitoba. He then took a course in anti-aircraft artillery for 2 months in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Then he was transferred to Pacific Comman attached to 27th Regiment, station at Vancouver Island, Patricia Bay, B.C. for 3 years, and the Aleutian Islands for 6 weeks.

On November 21, 1942 Dennis married Nellie Melnychuk in the Pruth Greek Orthodox Church, on a five day leave. Nellie was the fourth daughter of Nick and Annie Melnychuk of Norma. She was born on March 16, 1925. In 1931 Nellie attended school in Spring Creek finishing Grade 7 in 1938, then finished grade 9 in Norma in 1940. Mike Petruk, John Yurchuk, and Bill Gegolick were her Spring Creek teachers. Mrs. Shermaliuk was her teacher at Norma. After her schooling she went to work with her parents on the farm till she married Dennis Ursuliak in 1942. They then moved to Patricia Bay, B.C. living in Sydney, B.C. in an apartment away from the barracks. In 1944 Dennis was transferred to Boundary Bay, B.C. on the mainland very close to the American border guarding an airport. At this time Nellie went to live with her parents at Norma, while expecting their first child. Their first daughter Audrey Anne (Mrs. Emile Romanovich) was born May 12, 1944 at the Vegreville St. Joseph Hospital with Dr. Reid in attendence. They now have 3 children; Debbie, Blaine, and Cameron.

On October 15, 1945, Dennis received his discharge at the Calgary armouries, and moved to live with Nellies parents at Norma. That same year Dennis and Nellie moved on S.W. 4-55-14-W4th on his parents home place, with 5 horses and a complete line of horse machinery.

A second daughter, Jane (Mrs. Bill Laporte) was born at the St. Joseph Hospital in Vegreville on January 22, 1947 with Dr. Svarich in attendence.

First son Donald Dennis was born on August 3, 1949 at the St. Joseph)s Hospital in Vegreville with Dr. Nick Kuzik in attendence. He is now married to Eileen Chomik of Vegreville now having 2 children; Brian and Christine.

Dennis farmed till 1950 with horses when he switched to power machinery (22-36 IHC on steel) also I.H.C. 9' tiller, but still threshing. In 1952, he purchased a Massey Harris #17 pull type combine, combining only the wheat, and still threshing oats and barley.

Dennis and Nellie were still farming when their second son, Craig Allan was born on May 30, 1955 at the St. Joseph's Hospital with Dr. Nick Kuzik in attendance. Craig married Barbara Storms of Edmonton having no children.

In 1956 saw a new house go up on the Ursuliak farm with all the conveniences coming in 1961, (Power, water, and sewer).

In 1960 a third daughter was born on July 21, at the St. Joseph's hospital in Vegreville with Dr. Jan Stefanik in attendence. She is now working for the Federal Government. Dennis and Nellie kept right on farming, raising turkeys, milking cows, and some hogs, when in 1966 they cut out the turkeys and milking cows and expanded their hog operation.

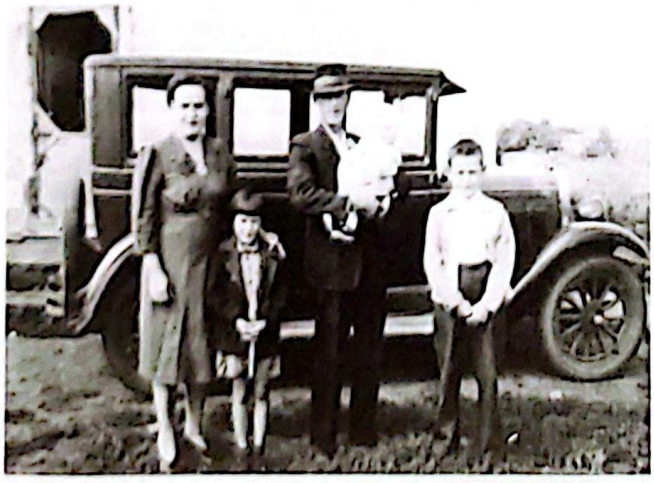
In 1968 saw Dennis run in a county election in a field of 3, John Tkachuk (the incumbent), William Andriaschuk, and himself coming out victorious, a position he still holds today. Being a county counsellor away on county business has it's drawbacks when the wife and family have to take on extra chores. It also has some rewards, Dennis went with Bill Kokotailo and Bob Bachelet to Tulsa, Oklahoma, U.S.A. courtesy of Dupont Canada, to negotiate for plastic pipe to be used in the County owned gas system. Also with all the council plus Gary Popowich administrator for the County we went to Celeveland Ohio, U.S.A. courtesy of General Motors & Mike Sawka (Salesman) to tour their Terex factory which manufactures earth moving equipment. Also Peoria, Illinois, U.S.A. courtesy of R. Angus Ltd. Alberta, dealers for Caterpillar earth moving equipment, touring their factory with Stan Kucy (Salesman) being our guide. One of the rewards that Nellie gets for her extra work is 1 week in Banff during the Annual school and municipal refresher course in early June. At this time Dennis and Nellie are still farming enjoying 1 month in Arizona, U.S.A. during the last 2 winters.

FRANK VOLK

by Lucia Robinson

Frank Volk was born in 1907 in Aberdeen, North Dakota. He came to Canada in 1908 with his parents and they settled in southern Alberta, at Burdett. Then, in September, 1924 they moved to Vegreville and farmed in that district.

On October 23, 1934, Frank married Marie Venne, daughter of Azarie and Anna Venne. They were married



Mr. and Mrs. Frank Volk and family: Theresa, Alvin and Lorraine, 1945.

Mr. & Mrs. Frank Volk and family: Theresa, Alvin and Lorraine, 1963

in the chapel at the convent in Vegreville, where Marie had been a boarder and had attended school. The first years after their marriage they farmed at different locations in Warwick. In 1938 they moved to Mr. Onesime Paradis' place, NW¼ 23-55-12-W4th, Duvernay and were there for four years until 1942. His brother also farmed in Brosseau and worked for Joe Brosseau.

Then they moved on again, and finally retired in Vegreville.

Frank and Marie Volk had three children:

Alvin — born February 18, 1936, married Terry Kowalchuk, has two daughters, lives in Edmonton.

Lorraine — Born December 7, 1937, married Mike Orfino, had two sons, passed away April 19, 1976 and buried in St. Michael's Cemetery, Edmonton.

Theresa — born November 22, 1944, married Lawrence Letan, has four children, lives on a farm near Lavoy, Alberta.

AZARIE VENNE — THE FERRY-MAN

by Florence Mailloux

St. Agathe, Quebec was the birthplace of Azarie Venne, January 27, 1870 and of Anna Huard February 1, 1873. As a young man Azarie went to Grand Forks, North Dakota, U.S.A. and so did Anna and her family. In 1892 they were married there.

After their oldest child, Rosanna was born they moved to Canada in 1894. They settled in Wetaskiwin, Alberta, where Azarie worked in a butcher shop for Mrs. Venne's uncle, Jules Huard. Dick, Athanase. Euclid, Odile, Laura, Philip and Romeo were born there. Then, around 1907, they came to Duvernay where Azarie operated the first government-owned ferry. Mrs. Venne ran a boarding-house, previously owned by Mathias Theroux, at the top of the hill overlooking the ferry. The people passing through on their way to St. Paul or Vegreville would stop to eat.

Mr. and Mrs. Azarie Venne at home in the "twenties".

Mr. Azarie Venne, his sister (Grey Nun), Mrs. Venne, Athanase Venne and his wife, Marie Venne (Theroux) in St. Albert, Alberta, August 15, 1939.

Mrs. Emery Theroux, Mrs. Anne Marie Hardy, Clarice Theroux (Mrs George Desrosiers), Mrs. Azarie Venne, Eva Theroux (Mrs. L. Davis), Mrs. Zephyr St. Hilaire, early '20s.

Vegreville where Marie was born in 1912. It was at this time that the Prince Edward Hotel, in Vegreville, was being built. Mr. Venne hauled the first load of lumber for it. He also ran the stage with horses from Vegreville to St. Paul. At about this time they also lost three children, Adele, Henry and Joseph from diptheria.

Beer Party at Onesime Paradis on NW¼ 23-55-12-W4th in 1917. Back — Mr. Azarie Venne, Noe Theroux, Mr. & Mrs. Onesime Paradis, Mr. & Mrs. Lapierre. Middle row — Athanase Venne, (looks like Tobin Brunelle), Ovila Vincent, Mrs. Azarie Venne. (The rest are unknown to us).

They had the misfortune of losing all their belongings in a fire in the rooming house where they were living, in 1913. Marie was barely walking at the time so Mrs. Venne sat her in a chair in the street during the fire. They went back to Duvernay and Joe was born there, at home, with Dr. Hardy in attendance.

In 1917, Mr. Venne bought a farm in Warwick and farmed there for many years until his retirement in Brosseau. He had bought Mr. Pare's house (this originally had belonged to Ovila Vincent). He passed away in 1945.

Mrs. Venne then sold her house and moved to B.C. with her daughter, Odile. Mrs. Anna Venne died in 1968.

Mr. & Mrs. Azarie Venne had thirteen children but only two are survivors:

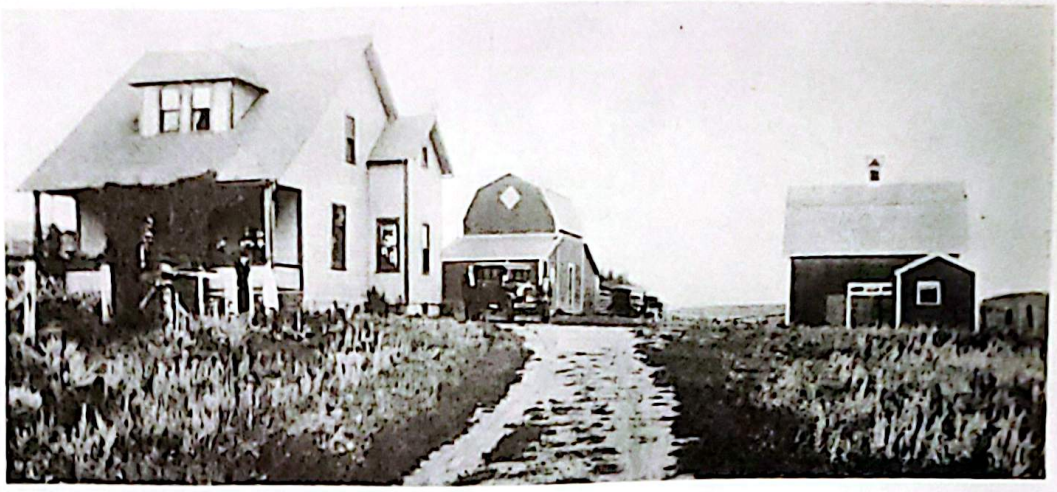
Marie — born 1912, married Frank Volk, had three children, retired in Vegreville.

Joe — born July 19, 1914, married 1. Helen Simpson, had 5 children. 2. Eva Chernawsky lives in Edmonton.

JEAN BAPTISTE VINCENT

by Annette Fault

Mr. Jean Baptiste Vincent son of Jean Batiste Vincent and Amanda Derosiers was born in St. Edwinge, Clifton Quebec. He attended school there and worked on his fathers farm until 1903. With all the news in the papers, and encouraged by Father Aganiere, numerous settlers ventured west. In 1903 Mr. Vincent together with the St. Hilaires, Joe Desrosiers, F. Lapierres and others left Quebec for the West. They travelled by train to Edmonton and made their way to Brosseau crossing on the North Saskatchewan River. When they arrived they found that others had arrived a year earlier. Mr. Brosseau had already brought building materials and stock for a store.



Baptiste Vincent's farm (1928)

Mr. Vincent had remained in Edmonton and decided to build a scow along with the help of Noe Vincent and to travel the North Saskatchewan to the Brosseau-Duvernay crossing to meet with their friends and relatives. The journey took three days, but all arrived safely. Mr. Vincent's purpose to travel to the Brosseau crossing was because his fiancee was already there. Several months later in November, Mr. Vincent was married to Eva St. Hilaire daughter of Alphonse St. Hilaire, also from St. Edwinge Que. They were married by Rev. R.P. Therien stationed at the Indian Mission of St. Paul des Metis, also known as St. Paul des Cris in 1865.

(L. to R.) — Victor, Annette, Armand, Denise and Alice with Mr. and Mrs. Jean Baptiste Vincent. (1920)

Regardless of the many hardships, the pioneer days were fun and everyone co-operated to put on various functions which were held in the St. Laurent Parish. Mrs. Vincent played the organ for over thirty years and her husband sang in the choir. Flowers always were well arranged in the church which were of course either made or grown by Mrs. Vincent.

Many social evenings and plays were organized by them to raise money for the church.

Mr. & Mrs. Vincent sold their farm to Mr. Leo Marceau in 1944 and retired to Edmonton, near St. Joachim church and enjoyed a well deserved rest. They were blessed with five children, Alice, Denise, Armand, Annette, and Victor.

MR. AND MRS. RON WATSON

by Juli Watson

The Watson family, Ronald, Julie and their three sons, William, George and David, arrived in Brosseau on September 28th, 1979. They bought Bachelet Texaco and Drive Inn. They are now owners of Watson Service and Drive Inn.

Ronald and Julie lived in Pass Lake, Ontario since their marriage on November 15th, 1952.

Ronald was born in Port Arthur on September 17th, 1933. His wife Julia (Nee Baysarowich) was born in Zhoda, Manitoba on April 6th, 1934. They had four children. Lena born on May 5th, 1954, William born on April 24th, 1957, George born on August 8th, 1960 and David born on August 7th, 1967. They were all born in Thunder Bay, Ontario.

Their daughter married James Price and they have three children, Kevin born on May 20th, 1972, Karen born April 28th, 1973 and Caroline born on April 2nd, 1974. They live in Pass Lake, Ontario.

Ronald's father lives in Summerland, B.C. His brother Raymond lives in Pass Lake and another brother Robert lives in St. Albert, Alberta.

Julie's brothers Nick and Anthony Baysarowick live in Thunder Bay, Ontario. Alex lives in Pickle Crow, Ontario. Her sisters Victoria Butuk, Elsie Hosegood live in Thunder Bay, Marie Ann Townsend lives in Kenora, Ontario.

ROBERT THOMAS WATT

by Mrs. Margaret Watt

Born — October 30, 1899

Place of birth — Whitford, North West Territories

Ancestors — His father, Tom Watt, came with Colonel Middleton to squash the rebels of the Saskatchewan Rebellion.

4 Generations
Great-grandmother — Mrs. Robert Watt (nee Margaret McPherson); back — Mrs. & Mrs. Edmond Brosseau (nee Judy Krudys); center — Mrs. Edouard (nee Sara Watt), baby — Jennifer Marie Brosseau, taken November 26, 1979

In 1916, Robert (Bob) was attending high school in Vegreville. The first World War was being fought in France, so he quit to join the 19th Alberta Dragoons. He was with the cavalry just a short while when he was transferred to the 49th Battalion and sent overseas. He saw active service in France and was wounded twice, and, suffered from the effects of the poisin gas used by the enemy in some of the battles on the Western Front. Bob was in a military hospital in England on November 11, 1918 when the Armistice was signed. In 1919 he was discharged from the army. Bob returned to Wattsford where he joined his father, Tom Watt, to work on the farm and ranch until his death.

In 1926, Bob married Margaret (Maggie) McPherson. They had three children, Sara, Patricia and Tom. Bob died June 13, 1969. Maggie has retired in Sherwood Park, Alberta.

The family still consider the farm, originally homesteaded in 1889 by Tom Watt, as home.

Sara, married Edouard Brosseau, and had three children — Edmond, Catherine and Roberta.

Patricia — married Larry Kisilevitch, and has one son — Kevin.

Thomas — married Margaret Zalasky and has two children — Kimberley and Robert.

MEMORIES OF AN OLD-TIME COUNTRY SCHOOL TEACHER

(Maggie McPherson Watt, born February 5, 1905, graduate of Victoria High School, Edmonton, and of Camrose Normal School in 1923).

My memories easily travel back to nearly sixty years ago. At that time, a number of my adventures seemed to be more akin to disasters. Today, however, they provide me with many a humorous anecdote to entertain my grandchildren.

It was the first of May, 1923, at the age of eighteen, that I left my home in Edmonton to head north to my first school. First came a train ride and then a long, long twenty-mile ride in a democrat over the roughest and longest road I had ever travelled on. It was along that road that I lost my new five-dollar sailor hat. The wind blew it off my head and it was lost forever. We eventually arrived at our destination without further mishaps.

The next morning I set off to find the school and the shack, or teacherage, that was to be my home for the next few months. And, find them I did — two isolated buildings surrounded by trees and swamp. So I settled in, with nary a neighbor within miles.

The teacherage was much to be desired. It was truly small and the furniture was scanty. I remember the bed and chair in particular. The bed consisted of a cot with a straw tick. The straw obviously had not been changed for years. The slightest movement caused a shower of dust to descent upon me. I slept very little that night!

The next day, the boys at the school carried the tick to a straw stack and stuffed it with fresh straw. They came to my rescue with the chair as well. The chair was to be used in the school or in my shack, whenever and wherever it was needed. However the chair had only three legs, so really, it was not of much use anywhere. The boys went out to the bush, this time, to cut a willow stick and gave the chair its fourth leg.

The availability of drinking water, too, presented me with problems. There was no well, but a spring nearby to which we took a pail to fill with water. But, before I could even get to the spring I had to scatter the cattle gathered around it. It is not hard to visualize a city girl "Shooing" the cows and a bull away Frighteningly so!

One other amusing note I will end this in a happier note. The coyotes howled you to sleep at night and a woodpecker awakened you in the morning by hammering on the stove pipe.

My students made all the daily inconveniences seem trivial. They were delightful and so very kind. I had never realized there were so many beautiful wild flowers in Alberta, and, each morning the children would bring some in, by the armful.

On the last day of August, I left my first school and on September 2nd, I was established in a second one. It

was another one-room country school about thirty or forty miles south of my first one. Again I found the children a source of delight, but this time there were forty-five of them in grades one to nine. Here it must have been quite an amusing sight for the pupils to see the teacher arriving on horse-back. The children of those days deserve a great deal of credit. They walked two or three miles to schools regardless of the weather. During the winter months the roads were never plowed and the temperature often dropped to thirty or forty degrees below zero, Fahrenheit. But we all survived! Many of my pupils eventually became teachers to replace such as I. — Country teachers.

I had several years at different schools and many pleasant memories of my years of teaching.

OUR FAVORITE ST. LAURENT SCHOOL BUS DRIVER

by Mrs. Mollie Wirachowsky

Jacob and Agnes Wirachowsky of German ancestry, emigrated from Taganrog, Russia to Humboldt, Saskatchewan in 1905 with eight of their ten children. The youngest of these, Bernard, born September 13, 1894, was then eleven years old. Jacob homesteaded in Leader, Saskatchewan.

George Hauck married to Katrina Sautner came from Crimea, Russia to North Dakota USA in 1901 with ten of their children. Within a year they moved to Odessa, Washington, USA. In 1910 they came to "Happy Land" Leader, Saskatchewan. The second youngest, Mollie, born February 25, 1898 relates the following story:

Bernard and I met in Leader, Sask., fell in love and were married on February 9, 1916. We farmed there until 1920 where three of my children were born, Edward, Katherine and Bernard Jr. (Katherine died three days after her birth.)

Left to right — front row: Jacob and Agnes Wirachowsky, back row: Tony and Bernhardt.

George and Katrina Hauck and family, back row left to right: Cecilia, Margaret, Edward, Philippine, Molly, front row: George, Tillie and Katrina.

We decided to go to Toppinish Wash. because there seemed to be more opportunity but returned to Leader after three years happy to be back in Canada, amongst relatives once more. Our fourth child, Agnes, was born in Toppinish and Katherine was born shortly after our return to Leader.

Within a year we moved to Kerrobert, Sask, where we stayed for fourteen years. Jessie, Madonna and Ruth were born there. We were farmers but Bernard also did other work, such as butchering animals on the farm and delivering the meat in town. He also worked on the roads, grading with his four horses.

Wedding of Bernard Wirachowsky and Mollie Hauck February 9, 1916.

The years during the Depression were hard. Saskatchewan became a dust bowl. For years there was no rain, no crops and most people were forced to accept

Mr. & Mrs. Wirachowsky with their two sons Edward and baby Barney 1919.

relief (now known as welfare). Since we were unable to pay taxes, the government took our land and we began to look to the neighboring province for a new home. Bernard's brother, Joe Wirachowsky, along with his Parish Priest, Father Campeau, from Brosseau, Alberta, managed to find a farm for rent, belonging to Mrs. Hazel Brosseau: SE¼ 34-55-12-W4th. The government of Saskatchewan paid our way to Alberta so, in March, 1938 Bernard and I with our children: Edward, Bernard Jr., Agnes, Katie, Jessie, Madonna and Ruth came to Brosseau bringing with us four horses, 6 cows, some chickens, machinery and household effects. We had a three-room log house on Gray's homestead (1901) near the shallows where travellers forded the North Saskatchewan River. We were poor in material possessions but Bernard often said "I am a poor man but still very rich in many ways!" Our faith led us through many hardships and our love of music and singing brought many joys to our family life. Many happy hours were spent singing and playing different instruments and enjoying our simple country life.

The war years added to our worries. Bernard Jr. joined the army, went overseas and was prisoner-of-war for 1½ years. We all rejoiced when he returned home safely at the end of the war.

Ruth's birthday on Gray's farm by the log house, 1940.

In 1945 SE¼ 28-55-12-W4th in Duvernay was being sold for taxes so, since Mrs. Brosseau was selling the land we were renting, we bought it. We lived on this farm for seven years.

The Wirachowsky family in 1975. Bernard, Edward, Barney, Agnes, Katie, Molly, Jessy, Madonna and Ruth.

Bernard and Molly Wirachowsky with the family on their Golden Wedding Anniversary — Feb. 9, 1966.

Bernard was very community-minded. He was involved with the affairs of his church, school, community and, later, county. One year he ran for Councillor but was defeated.

In 1952 Bernard gave up farming but we stayed on the farm, and Bernard Jr. worked the land. Bernard got a job as watchman during the construction of the Western Chemical Plant in Duvernay on shifts with his good friend, Albert Didier. The wages were only $80.00 a month so we finally moved to Edmonton where Bernard went carpentering and I made a little money baby-sitting.

Our last move was back to Duvernay, to the house which Bernard built himself. In 1957 he began to drive the school bus for the St. Laurent Separate School in Brosseau and then on to the Lafond High School. He enjoyed this work and had good discipline with the children. When he reached the age of 70 he had to retire from driving the school bus.

Bernard had practised barbering on our sons and grandsons so he opened a little barber-shop in our

Sister Ruth Wirachowsky's Silver Jubilee in the congregation of the Sisters of Charity of Notre Dame d'Evron.

The Wirachowsky family, Madonna Rioux, Sister Ruth, Barney, Katie Lavallee, Edward, Molly and Sister Jessie (Justina), May 1977.

Four generations of males: Bernard Wirachowsky, son Edward, grand-son, Keith and great grand-son, Cory, 1973.

Four generations of females: Molly, daughter Agnes, grand-daughter Wendy Payne and little Jennifer the great grand-daughter, 1976.

basement. The local barber, Albert Barnes, had passed away so we bought the barber chair from his widow, Mrs. Rose-de-Lima Barnes. He enjoyed this hobby very much because it gave him the chance to talk with his clients.

Almost every day Bernard would drive to Two Hills to shoot a few games of pool with his friends at the Senior Citizens' Centre. Mr. Albert Didier was usually his travelling companion. He would challenge anyone who cared to play. He also enjoyed gardening and would spend hours scratching around his flowers and vegetables.

He had a great interest in the Canadian Legion and faithfully attended all meetings and functions.

In 1975 Bernard's health began to fail. He suffered from high-blood pressure and the inability to get around the way he wanted to because of his poor legs. He passed away on April 12, 1975 at the age of 80 years.

I am still living in our house in Duvernay and, although I am now 82 years old, my health is relatively good, so, I can still walk to the mail about three blocks away, weather permitting. My children and grandchildren keep in touch by visits, telephone calls and letters.

My oldest son, Edward, married Rita Lavallee and lives in Edmonton.

Bernard Jr. (Barney) married Gisele Ouellette and they live about a mile away.

Agnes married Wesley Mottishaw. They live in Prince George B.C.

Katie married Joe Lavallee and is my next-door neighbor.

Madonna married Louis Rioux and is in Bruderheim.

Two of my daughters joined religious orders. Jessie (Sister Justina) is a Franciscan Sister of St. Elizabeth. She spent her religious life in Saskatchewan in hospital work as a Medical Record Librarian, Nursing Assistant and Pastoral Associate. At present she is working in Home-Care in Humboldt, Sask.

Ruth is a Sister of Charity of Notre Dame d'Evron. She also spent her religious life in hospitals, in the Business Office, Administration and at present is working in Pastoral Care in the St. Joseph's Hospital in Vegreville.

Our family was blessed with 23 grand-children and, at the present I have 22 great grand-children with more on the way. My life has been filled with many blessings and I am grateful for the friendship and love of my many friends and acquaintances.

BERNARD WEIR (WIRACHOWSKY)

by Gisele Weir

Bernard and Mollie Wirachowsky were married in Leader, Saskatchewan. They had nine children of which two died when they were babies. Bernard Jr. (better known as Barney) the third eldest, was born February 21, 1919. The family moved to Kerrobert where he received his education.

The Weir Family: 1976, back row left to right — Gilbert, Roberta, Denise, Bernard and Clifford
front row — Anthony, Barney, Karen, Gisele and Leonard.

Barney and Gisele spent the first year of their married life in Edmonton, where he was a brick-layer's helper at the Bonnie Doone School and Gisele helped in the main post-office.

In the spring of 1952 they returned to Duvernay and settled down to serious farming. Barney took on a job at the Western Chemical Plant as well as his farming. In 1956 he purchased SW¼ 28-55-12-W4th from his Dad and in 1958 he bought SE¼ 23-55-12-W4th which had belonged to Yarmachuk.

Barney is community minded, involved in being a trustee for the St. Laurent School as long as it lasted and in the activities of the Canadian Legion.

Barney and Gisele have had nine children:

Roberta was born in 1952 and married Bill Tarkowski in 1973.

Denise was born in 1954 and married Alan Bileski in 1975.

Gilbert and his twin brother (still-born) were born in 1955.

Clifford in 1956; Bernard Jr. in 1963; Leonard in 1964; Anthony in 1966 and Karen in 1972.

Barney stopped working at the Chemical Plant in 1975 and is a full-time farmer now.

Life was not always easy with a large family but their trust in divine Providence helped them through many trials. They now have four lovely grand-children and hope many more will come to carry on their name and faith in the future.

In March, 1938, during the Depression, the family moved to Brosseau, Alberta, where there seemed to be more opportunity. Bernard and his brother, Edward, rode the freight train to be with the livestock during the two day trip. The spring they arrived, Barney found work with Jean-Baptist Vincent. Then in the fall John Brosseau hired him for stooking and he got on Steve Plaska's threshing outfit. In the winter months, Barney spent a lot of time making a skating rink on the river and keeping it in tip-top shape for the teen-age skating gang. Many a pleasant evening was spent skating in the moonlight under the Northern Lights with a big bonfire to warm by. After this they often enjoyed a snack of popcorn made in Barney's home-made popcorn maker.

Gisele and Barney Weir on their 25th wedding anniversary, 1976.

In the fall of 1940 Bernard (Barney) was called to enroll at the Army Camp in Camrose, Alberta and in 1941 he joined the Edmonton Fusiliers to fight for his country. He went to the west coast, then to Westminister Barracks in Nanaimo and on to Prince Rupert. In 1942 he went overseas with the 49th Regiment.

In December 1943 he was taken prisoner-of-war in Ortona, Italy, and was taken to the camp at Stalag VIIA until the end of the war, in 1945. During his time as a prisoner-of-war he was encouraged by letters and parcels received from his family and the Red Cross. His greatest suffering was not being able to be in the thick of the action with his buddies.

Barney returned home in July 1945, proud of his country and happy to be home again where Peace and Brotherhood reigned once more.

In the fall of 1945 he bought land NW¼ 23-55-12-W4th which belonged to Nick Ruptash. A loan was made, to purchase this land, with the Soldiers' Settlement Board.

Barney was a bachelor but occasionally his sister, Ruth, would spend time with him to do his cooking in the busy season and to keep his house clean.

After the crop was off, Barney would go to work as a surveyor's helper in Redwater, Alberta. In 1948 he worked on the construction of the second Low-Level Bridge in Edmonton.

4 generations — Adelard Ouellette — great grandfather, Gisele Weir — grandmother with Gayle, Roberta Tarkowski — mother with baby Heather, 1978.

4 generations — Barney Weir — grandfather, Mrs. Molly Wirachowski — great grandmother, Roberta Tarkowski — mother with baby Gayle, 1978.

In 1951 Barney married Gisele Ouellette oldest daughter of Adelard Ouellette and Helene Grenier of Brosseau.

Gisele was born in Brosseau. She was educated in the St. Laurent School of Brosseau where her teachers were local girls: Carmen and Florence Brosseau. She attended this country school for eight years, then in 1947 went to the Vegreville convent for 1½ years but had to quit at Christmas because her mother was ill. Before she went away to convent she had worked locally at Joe Brosseau, Jr., Ernest Didier's store and at Rene Robinson's. After she returned from Vegreville she began dating Bernard Wirachowsky but before they were married he changed his name to Weir, as his brother Edward had already done so.

THE WASYL WERENKA FAMILY

by Mertie (Werenka) Beatty

Wasyl and Marafta (nee Iwasiuk) Werenka arrived in the Hairy Hill district in March of 1914 with five children, Adam, Peter, Anna, Helen and John. Five more children were born in Canada: Alice (in the fall of 1914), Nick, Alec, Mary and Jean.

Wasyl Werenka in 1943.

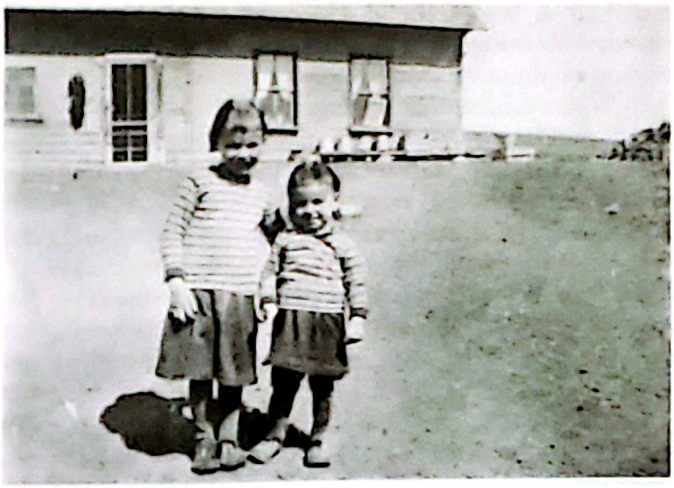
Marafta Werenka taken 1950.

Bukovina (shaded area) where many of the Ukrainian people as well as the Werenka family came from.

Their passport was dated February 3, 1914 at Kotzman, Bukovina, Austria. Their home village was Shepanetz. The family sailed from the port of Rotterdam in the Netherlands and arrived in New York on March 7, 1914. They brought with them three small wooden trunks and hand luggage, containing some clothing and personal belongings. Their son Adam remembers that they brought several sheepskin coats.

From New York they travelled by CPR to Calgary and on to Edmonton. A week later they travelled to Vegreville by train and on to Hairy Hills by horses and

Thatched roof house over 100 years old where Marafta Iwasiuk Werenka was born in 1876 in Bukovina, Austria.



Werenka farmhouse built in 1915. Part of it used for a store in 1916. Taken about 1941, Mertie and Frances Werenka.

Wasyl and Marafta with four of their children, Nick, Alec, Jean and Mary. Taken 1936.

democrat. They lived with the Gowrylo Lakusta's (Wasyl's sister and brother-in-law) for two weeks and then rented a farm house near Hairy Hill for a year.

It is interesting to note that had Wasyl and Marafta waited until spring or summer when the weather was more suitable for travelling, they may not have been allowed to leave Austria. For on June 28, 1914 Archduke Francis Ferdinand, the nephew of Emperor Francis Joseph and heir to the Austrian throne was shot and killed by Serbian patriots. This act set off World War I.

In the Fall of 1914, Wasyl obtained a homestead near Duvernay (SW¼ of Sec. 19-55-11-W4) and the family moved there in the Spring of 1915. This homestead plus three additional quarters have remained in the family and Adam and Nellie Werenka still live there.

For several years between 1916 and 1939 Wasyl and Marafta Werenka operated a general store at their farm. They served the neighbors in the area. Some records are available that show the purchases made by various people and the prices paid for groceries and dry goods in those days. Gum was 5¢ and tobacco was 10¢ a package.

Freight for the store was hauled by horses or oxen from Vegreville. Neither the railway nor Two Hills existed until 1928. Adam, the eldest son remembers hauling freight from Vegreville. If he was sleepy when he left Vegreville, he could let the oxen or horses find their own way home while he slept on top of the load.

Wasyl Werenka owned and farmed S.E. 28-55-11-W4 and this quarter was later owned by Alec Werenka. Wasyl and Marafta also owned and operated a rooming house located at 9157 Jasper Avenue in Edmonton during the early 1940's.

Wasyl Werenka died in 1943 following surgery in Edmonton. He is buried in Beechmount Cemetery in Edmonton.

Marafta Werenka spent a few years living with her youngest son Alec following Wasyl's death. Then she lived alone in her tiny home in Two Hills. The last seven years of her life she lived with her eldest son, Adam and his wife Nellie and their children. She is fondly remembered by her grandchildren as the one who spent endless hours sewing patches by hand on the knees of torn pants, and buttons on shirts. She never did learn to operate a sewing machine. We also remember her reading her Ukrainian Bible. She spoke very little English so we learned Ukrainian. She also spent many happy hours rocking babies and looking after her grandchildren, telling them stories of "the olden days". It is too bad that some of these stories were not written down for her great-grandchildren to enjoy.

Marafta Werenka died on July 20, 1953, following a lengthy battle with cancer. She is buried at Luzan Cemetery.

Have you ever wondered how it was that your grandparents settled where they did when they came to Canada? I have.

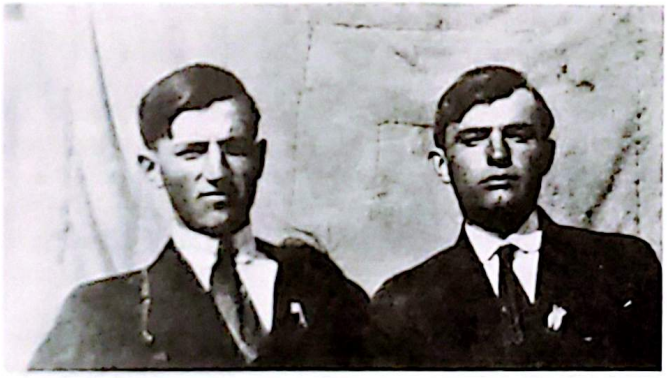
I understand that when Grandpa Wasyl Werenka brought his wife and five children to Canada in 1914, it was his third ocean crossing to North America. On his first trip (about 1903 to 1905) it is not known where he travelled and worked. He may have worked at a coal mine in Great Falls, Montana. On his second trip (sometime during 1907-1911) he and Grandma's brother, John Iwasiuk, worked at the Canmore Coal Mines at Canmore, near Banff, Alberta. Wasyl also worked at a coal mine at Cardiff, near Morinville, Alberta

and built a house there. He returned to Austria and planned to bring his wife and family to this small coal mining community.

When they arrived in Edmonton from New York in 1914, they continued by train to Morinville. While on the train to Morinville, someone told them that their home in Cardiff had burned down while Wasyl was back in Austria. They arrived in Morinville and hired a horse drawn "taxi" to take them to Cardiff, three miles S.E. of Morinville. What a disappointment if was for them all, but especially for Marafta to find out that the new house she had so looked forward to in this new country was destroyed by fire. The mine had closed down for the summer and there was no work available in Cardiff, so they returned to Edmonton and continued on to Vegreville by train and then to Hairy Hill where they had relatives.

So through circumstances, the Werenkas became homesteaders and farmers instead of miners. It is interesting to note that quite a number of the grandchildren and great-grandchildren own farms throughout Alberta.

Wasyl Werenka, and brother-in-law John Ewasiuk, 1907.



Peter and Adam Werenka. Taken 1920.

Peter and John Werenka.

Back row, left to right: Nick, John, and Adam. Front row: Jean Fieldler, Mary Harmatuik, Alice Knott, and Anna Babiuk — Werenka Family Reunion.

THE ADAM WERENKA FAMILY

by Mertie (Werenka) Beatty

Adam Werenka, eldest son of Wasyl and Marafta Werenka, was born in Bukovinca, Austria on September 12, 1899. He took all of his schooling in Austria, most of it in German. At the age of 14 he came to Canada with his parents in 1914, and then homesteaded near Duvernay in 1915.

He worked on the farm, breaking and ploughing the land with horses and oxen. He also helped operate the store that Wasyl and Marafta had.

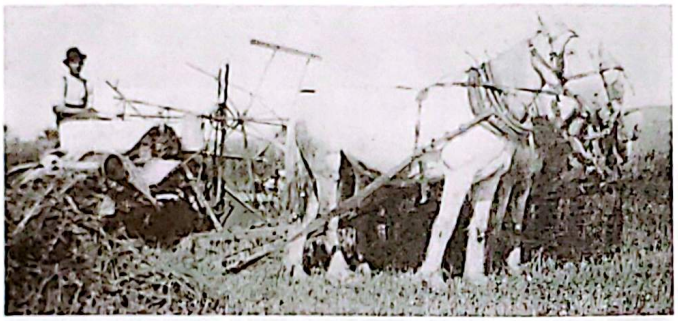
At age 18, Adam went to work on the Railroad as section man near Wainwright, Alberta. He worked there for 18 months from 1918 to 1919. From 1920 to 1927 he worked at various jobs including the Kimberley Lead Mine at Kimberley, B.C., the Drumheller Coal Mine, and the Brooks Irrigation Ditches.

In 1927, Adam moved to Vegreville where he worked at MacLeans Garage for six years and then at the Thomas Garage for seven years. MacLeans was located where the fire hall is at present; Thomas Garage was located where Raydon Motors (Mazankowski's) is now located in Vegreville.

Adam was active in the Vegreville Curling Club from 1930 to 1935.

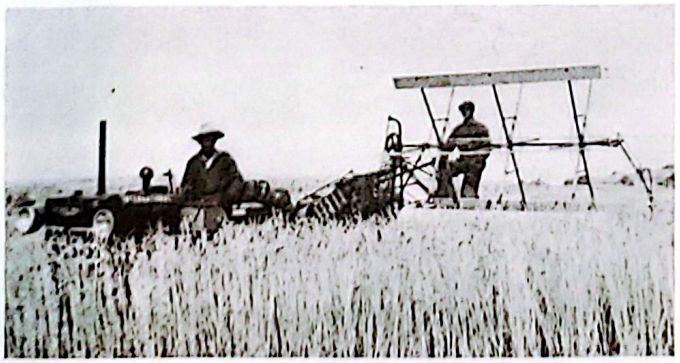
While in Vegreville, Adam met and married Nellie Kott of the Laniuk District in 1936. In the spring of 1939,

Adam and Nellie Werenka with their 7 children, 1975. Back: Dan, Joe, Harry. Front: Ruth Bateyko, Betty Saskiw, Frances Elkow, Mertie Beatty.



Adam Werenka on a horse-drawn binder. Harvest, 1920.

Adam Werenka on the combine and Alec Werenka on the caterpillar tractor. 1942.



Adam Werenka on the Caterpillar tractor and Alec Werenka on the Binder. Harvest, 1940.

they moved to the home place (SW 19-55-11-W4) about 4 miles southeast of Duvernay and have lived there ever since.

Adam Werenka was one of the first farmers in the area to use a tractor instead of horses for his farming operation. He purchased a new International Harvester Caterpillar Tractor in 1940 and farmed with power machinery. Horses were used only at threshing time until they were replaced by the combine.

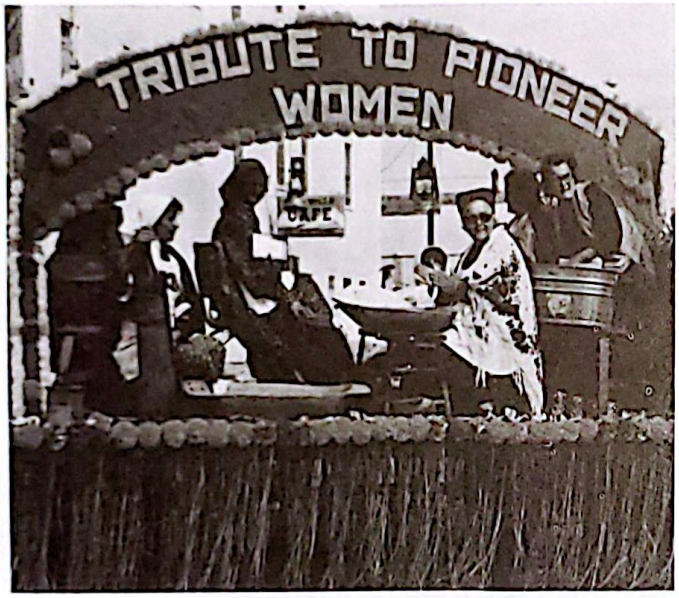
Adam has been a long-time member and supporter of the Luzan Community Club, the Two Hills Co-Op and the U.F.A. When the children were young, they attended the Evangelical Free Church in Two Hills where they were active in the Sunday School and Youth Groups.

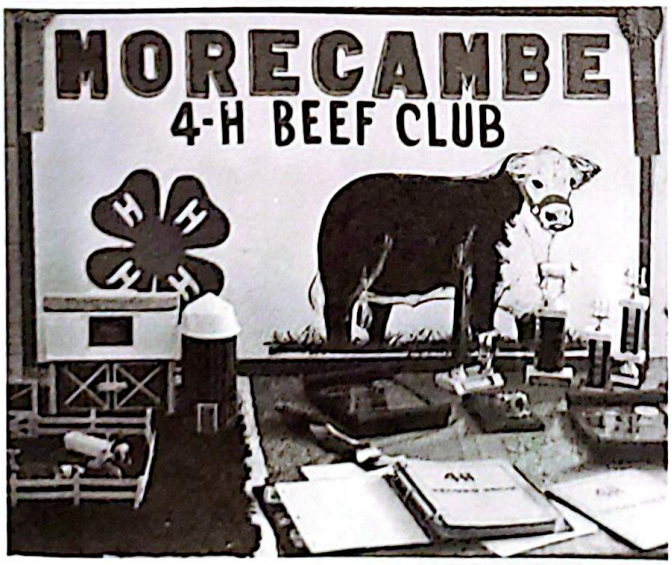
The farmers in the district lived and farmed without the convenience of either electricity or telephones for many years. When rural electrification finally came to the district, each farmer was charged about $1,180 for his portion of the power line. Adam Werenka and his neighbors got electricity in 1955 and the very first appliance Adam and Nellie purchased was a deepfreeze. The telephone did not become available in the district until 1968. Now they do not know how they got along without a telephone for so many years.

Adam and Nellie Werenka 1979. Adam celebrated his 80th Birthday on September 12.

The third generation, Adam Werenka, age 80 years with grandsons Lorne and Layton Beatty, 1979.

Adam and Nellie Werenka with their 19 grandchildren in 1975. Back row: Kim Saskiw holding Torrey Werenka, Layton Beatty, Darrell Elkow. Middle row: Steven Werenka, Kenneth Saskiw, Shane Werenka, Trevor Werenka, Jeff Werenka, Dennis Elkow, Lorne Beatty. Front row: Stuart Werenka, Yvette Werenka, Lorinda Beatty, Darwin Bateyko (on Grandma's lap), Kevin Saskiw (on Grandpa's lap), Jonathon Werenka, Jo-Lynn Werenka, Trevor Werenka. Born since 1975: Dustin Bateyko and Shandi Lee Werenka.





Darrell and Dennis Elkow's Display.

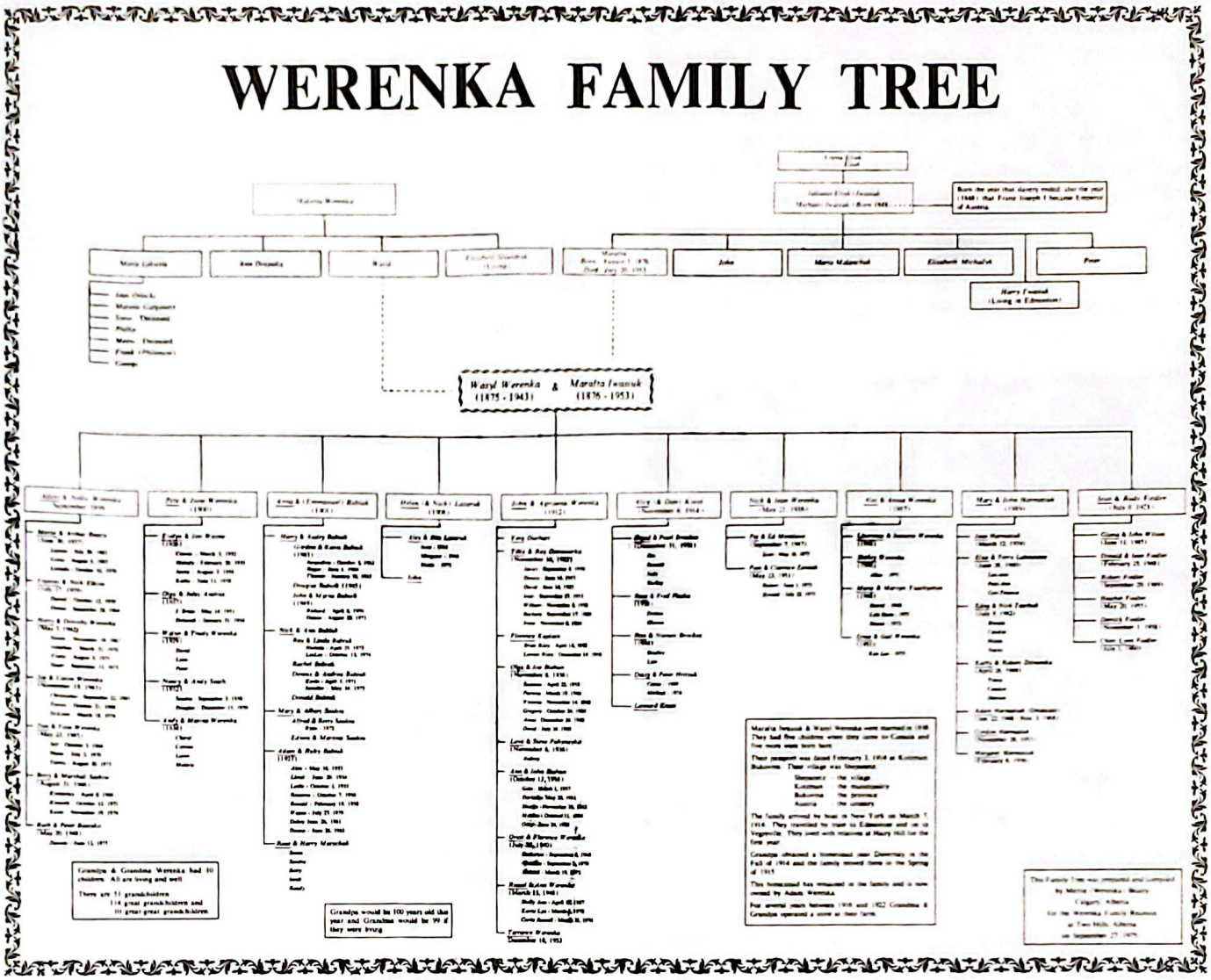
In 1957 Adam and Nellie built a modern 3-bedroom home on their farm. Every Christmas and Easter they enjoy the homecoming of their children and grandchildren. Every summer their grandchildren who live in Calgary and Edmonton love spending part of the summer holidays on the farm with Grandpa and Grandma (or Gedo and Baba as we call them in Ukrainian).

Adam Werenka celebrated his 80th Birthday on September 12, 1979. He had been born in Bukovina, Austria in 1899. He feels great, and attributes his long life to hard work, fresh air and exercise. Nellie Werenka is well-known in the community as the lady who cooks for many of the Ukrainian weddings. She is also known by many children and young people as the Cook for many summers at the Pentecostal summer Bible camp at Moose Lake.

Adam and Nellie have seven children and 21 grandchildren.

Next the story of each of the children in this order:

Mertie Werenka Beatty
Frances Werenka Elkow
Harry Werenka
Joe Werenka
Dan Werenka
Betty Werenka Saskiw
Ruth Werenka Bateyko



WERENKA FAMILY REUNION

The Werenka family celebrated a Family Reunion in Two Hills on September 27, 1975 with a Ukrainian banquet at the Centennial Hall and visits to the old "home place" — Adam Werenka's farm. Approximately 175 people (family and friends) were present and enjoyed a slide presentation and old pictures and artifacts collected by Mertie Beatty.

All of Wasyl and Marafta's ten children are living. Had Wasyl been alive, he would have been 100 years old in 1975. He was born in 1875 and Marafta was born in 1876.

As of March, 1980 there are 51 grandchildren, 122 great-grandchildren and 16 great-great-grandchildren. That makes a total of 199 descendants from two people who married in Bukovina, Austria in 1898 and came to Canada with 5 children in 1914.

Wasyl and Marafta Werenka's children:

Adam (1899) and Nellie (nee Kott) live near Two Hills.

Peter (1900) and June (nee Taschuk) live in Edmonton.

Anna (1901) — Mrs. Emmanuel Babuik lives at Two Hills (husband deceased).

Helen (1906) — Mrs. Nick Lazaruk lives in Edmonton (husband deceased).

John (1912) and Agripena live at Sangudo.

Alice (1914) — Mrs. Dan Knott lives at Two Hills (husband deceased. Previous husband, Gordon Brookes also deceased).

Nick (1916) and Jean (nee Lapaschuk) live in Edmonton.

Alec (1917) and Ann (nee Snihur) live in St. Paul.

Mary (1919) and John Harmatiuk live in St. Paul.

Jean (1921) and Rudy Feidler live in Burnaby, B.C.

MERTIE WERENKA BEATTY

by Mertie Beatty

Mertie Anne, the eldest daughter of Adam and Nellie Werenka was born in Vegreville, Alberta on June 30, 1937. She lived in Vegreville for two years; then the Werenka's moved to their farm south east of Duvernay, where she lived until she left home. Mertie attended school at Laniuk, Luzan, Duvernay, Nazir and Two Hills. She took her last two years of high school at Prairie High School at Three Hills, Alberta. Following high school graduation, Mertie returned to Two Hills and worked for over a year at the Chemical Plant, at that time known as Western Chemicals Ltd., as Secretary to the Manager.

Mertie and Art Beatty — 1978. Lorne (Age 13), Layton (Age 15), Lorinda (Age 8).

For the next four years Mertie attended Bible School at Prairie Bible Institute, graduating in 1960. During her Bible School years she spent one summer travelling in Ontario and another summer working in Chicago as a Secretary. Following graduation from Bible School, Mertie moved to Calgary, Alberta where she worked as a Secretary. She met and married Arthur Wayne Beatty of Carievale, Saskatchewan on October 13, 1962 in Calgary.

Art and Mertie have three children — Layton Wayne, born on July 29, 1963; Lorne Arthur, born on August 6, 1965; and Lorinda Joy, born on October 10, 1970. For the past 16 years they have lived at 4607 Charleswood Drive N.W., Calgary, Alberta. They are active members of Foothills Alliance Church, and the children are involved in the Youth Groups of the Church. Art works as a Realtor.

In 1975 Mertie completed four years of University and received her B.Ed. degree (with Distinction) from the University of Calgary. She is now teaching in an elementary school and is completing her course work for her Master's degree in Education Curriculum and Instruction. She will be receiving her M.Ed. Degree in the Fall of 1980.

FRANCES WERENKA ELKOW

by Frances Elkow

Frances Elizabeth, second eldest daughter of Adam and Nellie Werenka was born on July 17, 1939 on the farm near Duvernay. She attended school at Nazir and Two Hills.

Following graduation from High School in 1958, she married Nick D. Elkow of Musidora, Alberta. They farm one mile east of Musidora.

Nick and Frances Elkow with Dennis and Darrell 1977 at Darrell's H.S. Graduation.

Frances is Manager of the Two Hills Co-Op Hardware and Dry Goods Store. Nick and Frances are active in the Greek Orthodox Church in Two Hills and are members of the Two Hills Co-Op.

Frances and Nick have two sons, Darrell Wayne, born October 12, 1959 and Dennis Dwayne, born September 28, 1964. Darrell and Dennis have both been active in the Morecambe 4-H Beef Club.

HARRY WERENKA

by Harry Werenka

Harry Wasyl Werenka, eldest son of Adam and Nellie Werenka was born at the farm near Duvernay on May 7, 1942. He took all his schooling at Two Hills. Following graduation from High School in 1960 he worked on his Dad's farm.

From 1963-1966 Harry attended Bible School at Caronport Bible Institute at Caronport, Saskatchewan, graduating in 1966 with a Pastor Major and an Evangelical Teacher Training Association Diploma. While at Bible School he met Dorothy Helena Dyck who was in his class and also graduated in 1966. Dorothy was a nursing assistant from Rhineland, Saskatchewan, south of Swift Current. They were married in 1967 and moved to Toronto where they lived until 1972. Harry worked for Canada Packers and attended Humber College in Toronto where he took a machinists course.

In 1972 Harry was transferred to Edmonton with Canada Packers. In 1973 he apprenticed as a millwright, receiving his Interprovincial and Provincial Papers for Journeyman Millwright.

Harry, Dorothy and family, taken 1975.

Harry and Dorothy have four children: Steven Michael, born November 19, 1967; Jonathan Harold, born March 22, 1970; Yvette Helena Marie, born August 6, 1971; and Stuart Peter, born September 13, 1973. Their home is an approved Foster Care Home and they have four foster children: Margaret Christine, born February 27, 1975, whom they are adopting; Janet Gayle Koflik, born November 16, 1967; and twins, Wanda and Wendy Joe, born January 27, 1971.

Harry and Dorothy are active members of Beulah Alliance Church in Edmonton where Dorothy is Edmonton District Co-ordinator for Pioneer Girls and Harry is co-ordinator of Christian Service Brigade (a Church club for boys). Harry is also in charge of the Beulah Alliance public address system and Tape Ministry.

Harry is employed at Canada Packers (Shur-Gain Division) as Millwright. He also owns and farms two quarters near Thorhild 40 miles N.W. of Edmonton. They live at 11723 - 133 Avenue, in Edmonton.

JOE WERENKA

by Joe Werenka

Joseph Adam, second son of Adam and Nellie Werenka, was born on November 19, 1943 at Vegreville Hospital. He attended school at Two Hills.

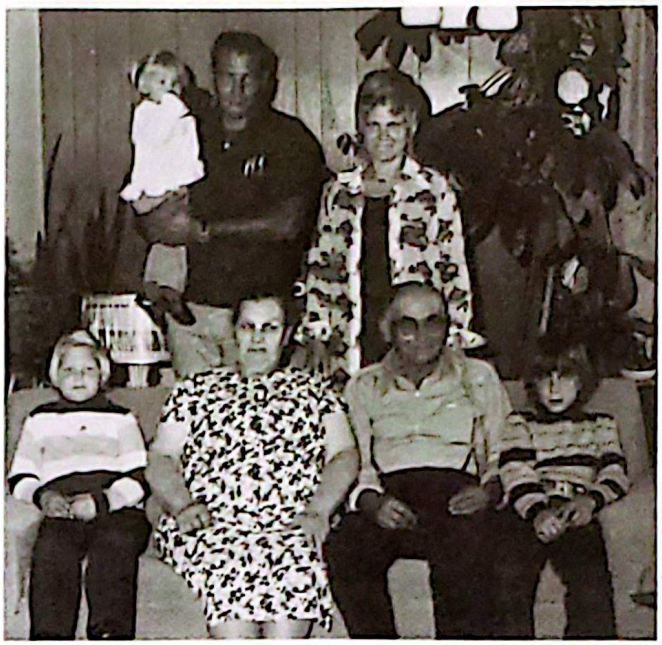
Joe worked on his Dad's farm for a while. Then he worked for U.G.G. in construction and later for Nature's Fertilizer.

In 1964 he married Caron Wood from Athabasca. They lived in Edmonton until 1970 when they moved to Twin Falls, Idaho, and later to American Falls, Idaho where they are at present.

Joe and Caron own and operate Sunset Aviation, a crop spraying company. They also operate a charter plane service and a flying school.

Joe and Caron have three children: Christopher, born September 22, 1965; Trevor, born October 21, 1968; and Jo-Lynn, born March 18, 1974.

They live at R.R. #1, American Falls, Idaho, U.S.A.



Joe and Caron Werenka, Trevor, Chris and Jo-Lynn with Grandma and Grandpa in 1975.

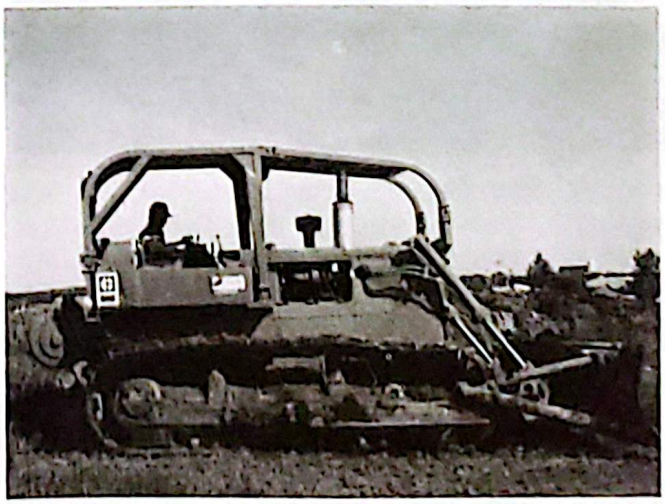
DAN WERENKA

by Dan Werenka

Daniel Reuben Werenka, youngest son of Adam and Nellie Werenka, was born at Vegreville Hospital on May 23, 1945. He took all his schooling at Two Hills School.

Following high school he worked for Alberta Water Resources in Edmonton and Red Deer for 6 years. He took engineering courses at N.A.I.T. obtaining a Diploma in Engineering.

He married Faye Schlachter on June 14, 1969. They have four sons: Jeffrey Reuben, born October 5, 1964; Shane Donald, born July 2, 1970; Torrey Duane, born August 20, 1973; and Shandi Lee, born January 6, 1979.



Dan Werenka and his cat. Taken 1980.

Dan Werenka and his "cats". 1953 and 1980

Dan worked for the County of Red Deer as County Police Inspector for two years, 1970-72. From 1972 to 1975 Dan and Faye lived in Grande Prairie where Dan was manager of road construction for Proctor & Gamble.

Since 1975 Dan and Faye have lived in Two Hills where they own and operate Danfa Cat Service Ltd. — "Anything you could want from a cat except the kittens." Dan also operates his and his Dad's farms.

The boys are active in hockey as well as Cubs and Scouts.

Jeff, Shane, Torrey and Shandi Werenka, Dec. 1979.

BETTY WERENKA SASKIW

by Betty Saskiw

Betty Marie, second youngest daughter of Adam and Nellie Werenka, was born on August 31, 1946 at Vegreville Hospital. She attended school at Two Hills.

Following graduation from High School in 1964, she went to Edmonton and worked at Holland House Electrical until 1971.

Betty married Marshall Nick Saskiw of the Morecambe district in 1965. Marshall is an Engineering Technologist with the Department of Environment. Betty and Marshall are active in the Londonderry Community League.

Betty and Marshall Saskiw have three children: Kimberly Carole Ann, born April 6, 1966; Kenneth Marshall, born October 12, 1971; and Kevin Nicholas Adam, born November 19, 1974.

Kim plays on the Londonderry Community PeeWee Basketball Team and they won the Provincial Championship in 1978-79. Kenneth is involved in soccer and hockey and Kevin plays soccer.

For the past twelve years Betty and Marshall have lived at 14207 - 78th Street in Edmonton. They also own a quarter section of land near Morecambe.

Betty and Marshall Saskiw, Kimberly, Kevin and Kenneth with Grandma and Grandpa, Nellie and Adam Werenka, 1975.

RUTH WERENKA BATEYKO

by Ruth Bateyko

Ruth Joan, the youngest daughter of Adam and Nellie Werenka, was born in Two hills Hospital on May 20, 1948. She took all her schooling at Two Hills School.

Following graduation in 1965, Ruth took a business course in Edmonton and then worked for the City of Edmonton from 1966 to 1973. She married Peter Paul Bateyko on July 11, 1970.

Peter and Ruth, Darwin and Dustin Bateyko.

Ruth and Peter moved to Two Hills from Edmonton in 1973. Also in 1973 they bought a farm in the Duvernay district and have built a new house there. This farm, interestingly, was originally homesteaded by Alice and Gordon Brookes, who were Ruth's Uncle and Aunt.

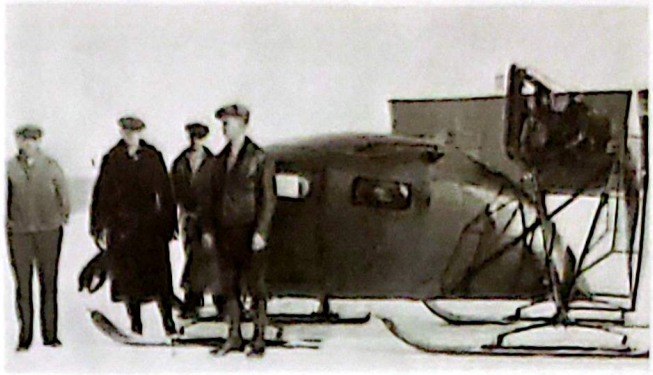
Ruth has worked at the County Office in Two Hills for the past six years. Peter works as Technologist for the Department of Environment, Design and Construction Division, located at Two Hills. Peter is President of the Men's Luzan Community Club. He plays softball for the Morecambe Mustangs.

Ruth and Peter have two sons: Darwin Peter, born June 12, 1975 and Dustin Paul, born April 2, 1977.

THE SNOW PLANE

As told by Adam Werenka
Written by Mertie Werenka Beatty

The snow plane in the above picture was built by the combined efforts of a number of people in 1934 in Vegreville. Pictured (l. to r.) are Adam Werenka, Merle Thomas (of Thomas Garage in Vegreville), next man is unknown, and driver _____ Harvey.



Snow Plane, 1934. Pictured (l. to r.) are Adam Werenka, Merle Thomas (of Thomas Garage in Vegreville), next man is unknown, and _____ Harvey.

The motor was from a Model A Ford car and it drove a propeller at the back. There was a frame built around the propeller as a safety feature. The body of the snow plane was a wooden frame with linen canvas stretched over the frame and shellacked and then painted. Inside were lightweight wooden seats, padded and upholstered. The skiis were either wooden or steel. It had a car steering wheel and the accelerator was a pedal type. You started the motor by turning the propeller.

There was no battery and no heat, so you had to bundle up when you rode in it. It is estimated that this snow plane could travel at speeds up to 60 m.p.h. It was a bumpy ride though, if the snow was frozen.

This one was a 3-passenger one. Another in the district was a larger 7-passenger one.

OUTDOOR OVENS

by Mertie Werenka Beatty

When the early Ukrainian pioneers came to Western Canada, they brought with them many traditions and practices. Some were cultural and artistic like their music, cross-stitch embroidery and Easter egg decorating. Others were a necessity like the outside "Dutch ovens" or Peetch (pronounced "peach"). Many families did all their baking in these large outdoor ovens. Occasionally, they were built inside the house.

The earliest ovens were built of woven willow branches which were plastered with a mixture of clay and straw. They were then plastered inside and out with a final layer of fine sand mixed with clay, giving a cement-like finish. When bricks were available, they were made of bricks, sometimes on a cement or brick base.

To prepare the oven for baking, you filled it with long dry kindling and wood and allow the fire to burn inside for about an hour. The housewife gauged the readiness of the oven in this way: in the summer you needed to burn two loads of wood, and in the winter you burned three times, raking out the coals and ashes and refilling with long dry sticks of wood. Experienced cooks could put their hand in the oven after the ashes and coals

Outdoor "Peetch" (Dutch Oven). Adam Werenka and grandson, Lorne Beatty, taken at Motowylo's near Duvernay. 1969.

were raked out and they could tell whether it was hot enough. Some cooks threw a handful of cornmeal into the oven. If it ignited and burned, the oven was hot enough. Otherwise you needed to refill it with wood and heat it another time. The ashes and coals were raked and swept out with a long-handled rake. The heat was retained in the clay or brick walls.

The smaller ovens held 12 loaves of bread; the larger ones up to 30 loaves. Pies and buns could be baked quite successfully. If the oven was used to cook roasts and big pots of nachinka and holupchi, the door of the oven was plastered over with clay and sand to retain the heat and the contents were allowed to cook for 4 to 6 hours. You could not peek in to check on the progress of the cooking, and inexperienced cooks had some disasters, I am sure.

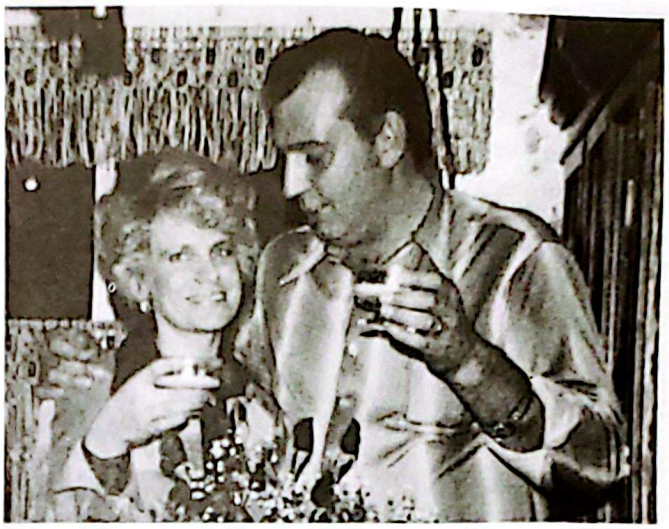
The earliest pioneers used the oven for all their baking, for they had only stove tops to cook on. Later, when people had cook stoves with ovens, they used the outdoor oven for quantity baking such as the weekly bread baking, or for cooking large quantities of food for weddings and other festive occasions.

JOSEPH ADAM WERENKA

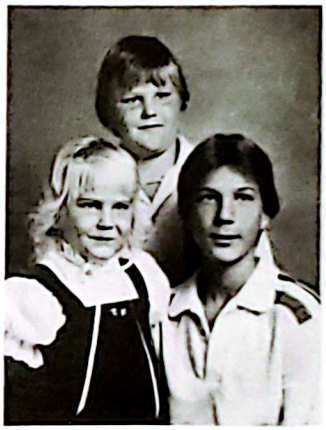
by Joe Werenka

Joseph Adam, son of Adam and Nellie Werenka was born in Vegreville, Alberta on Nov. 19, 1943. Joseph grew up in Two Hills and attended School in Two Hills and Edmonton.

Having an Interest in agriculture, Joseph joined NaChurs Plant Food Co. as a District Manager, for Central Alberta. In 1971 Joseph was transferred to Twin Falls, Idaho, as a Regional Manager for the Company, for the entire State of Idaho.



Joe and Caron Werenka.



Trevor, Jolynn and Chris Werenka.

In 1973 Joseph left the employ of NaChurs Plant Food Co. and formed his own corporation, Northwest Growers Supply Inc. for Agricultural Chemical Sales Business, using SunSet Aviation as a trade name for the aerial application side of the business.

In 1974 Joseph built a 7000 sq. ft. Office, Manger and Warehouse Complex on the American Falls County Airport. In 1977 Joseph (SunSet Aviation) was accepted as an authorized Cessna Dealer, including Pilot Center and Flight Instruction by Cessna Aircraft Co. of Wichita, Kansas. In the summer of 1977 he started construction of a Aircraft Storage Manger. The building has 12,480 sq. ft. and will store twelve to fourteen aircraft.

At the present time in American Falls, Idaho, SunSet Aviation is providing a Full Line of Cessna Sales and Service along with a Aircraft Parts Center for Cessna Aircraft. We have one of the best equipped maintenance shops in the area, along with a Flight Instruction Program that is second to none. The services we provide are exceptional for this size of Airport and the people of the community and surrounding area appreciate the services provided for their business and pleasure travel.

Joseph met and married Caron D. Wood of Athabasca, Alberta in 1964. Joe and Caron have three children, Christopher Joseph, born Sept. 22, 1965;

Trevor Adam, born Oct. 21, 1968 and JoLynn Marie, born March 18, 1974. For the past nine years they have been residing in Idaho. They are active members of St. John's Luthem Church and the children are involved in the Youth Groups of St. John's (Luther League). Joseph is an active member of Lion's Club International, a men's Civic Community Group. Caron is a graduate Dental Assistant and is an active member of Beta Sigma Phi. Joseph and his family are active community members and share many family hobbies, from swimming, horseback riding, motorcycle riding on their ranch in American Falls to snowmobiling in the Idaho Mountains.

WALTER VERENKA

Walter Verenka was born on December 11, 1941 in Willington with Dr. Lazaruk in attendence. in 1950 he started school with Sandra Chepeha as his teacher. In 1951 the county school closed so Walter went to Two Hills finishing his grade 11 in 1960. Mike & John Kozmak, John Buk, Anne Romaniuk, Nick Olinyk, Sophie Gorgichuk, and Eva Ruptash were his teachers and the principal was Joe Melynchuk. He continued his schooling at the Vic Composite High School taking art, of which Walter is good in oil paintings, and still does in his spare time.

While in Two Hills he was a member of the 49th Loyal Edmonton Regiment cadet league for 3 years. In 1961, Walter went to work at Firestone Rubber as a clerk, warehouse manager, tire adjuster, and in the office as a stock control, till 1968.

During the years at Firestone Rubber, Walter met Hyliene Lakusta and on August 17, 1964, they got married in St. John's Greek Orthodox Church in Edmonton, with Rev. Chu.

Hyliene was the only daughter of Frank and Lena Lakusta. She was born in Kirkland Lake, Ontario on February 18, 1942. In 1948 she started school in Hairy Hill, while living on the farm north of Hairy Hill for 1 year finishing grade 1. She remembers living in a two room log house. In 1949 she moved to Hafford, Saskatchewan where her parents owned the Hafford Hotel, and she finished her grade 5 there. In 1954 she moved to Prince Albert, Saskatchewan where her parents were in partnership in the National Hotel, situated on the banks of the North Saskatchewan River, till her grade 7. Hyliene can remember the cold winters in Saskatchewan. Back to Edmonton where she attended Prince Charles School finishing high school and a business course at Victoria Composite High School.

She worked for the City of Edmonton, Parks and Recreation Dept. for 10 years finishing in 1969. She then went to farm on Walter's home place, the former Alex Verenka place on N.E. 27-55-13-W4th.

In 1959, Hyliene went to Burmuda on Trans Canada Air Lines flight on a reduced fare because her dad was working for Trans Canada Air Lines. While she was there she met a sailor on the U.S.S. Valley Forge, and he took her on a launch out to sea on a CUS-45 carrier battleship. She was the only woman on board, so she got the royal treatment. She toured the deck where the aircrafts were stored and the gun turrets, spending the whole afternoon on the battleship. She still treasures 2 pins given to her; one of the U.S.S. Valley Forge CUS-45 and a St. Joseph & St. Christopher medal. Hyliene is an avid horsewoman having some purebred arabians.

Shoshana with Tangy her German Sheperd and Walter Verenka on the farm in 1979.

Shoshana on Princess (her pony) in the Two Hills Lions Rodeo Parade with Hyliene, taken in 1979.

Walter & Hyliene stayed with Walter's parents for 2 years, when in 1971 they moved to Vegreville. Walter was a director on the Rannach Community Pasture Association for 2 years till 1972. In 1970, Walters neighbors convinced him to let his name stand for county councillor in a field of three, coming out victorious. He still holds the position today.

Their first daughter Shoshana Rene', the Indian translation (a water lily) was born January 26, 1973 in Two Hills Municipal Hospital with Dr. M.E. Chonko in attendence.

Being a councillor has it's good times; going to Cleveland U.S.A., courtesy of General Motors and Mike Sawka took us to tour their factory of heavy equipment in Hudson, Ohio.

MR. AND MRS. ALEX YETTAW

by Florence Mailloux

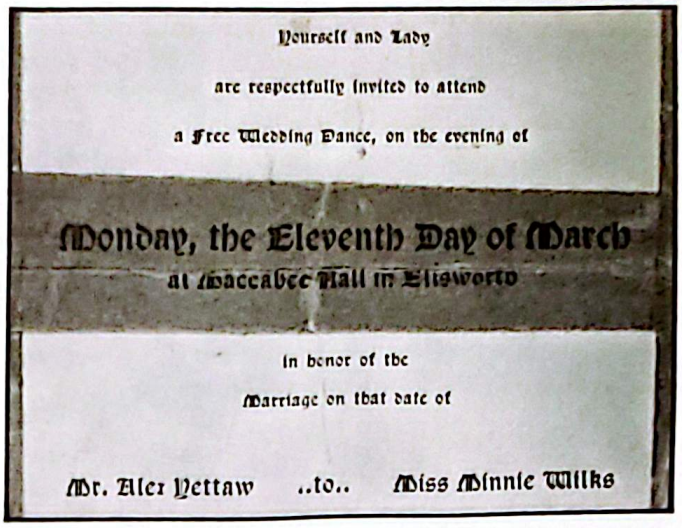
Alex immigrated to this country from the United States and came from the State of Michigan in the spring of 1905 accompanied by his wife and two children. Their first stop was the city of Edmonton. They camped for a few months before moving out to the Foisy district where they now reside. With two companions, Mr. W.C. Smith and Mr. Aldridge, they came in search for land directed by Mr. Ambrose Grey to a region which is now Foisy.

After locating the site of his new home, Mr. Yettaw returned to Edmonton. In October he made the trip back via the most common route in those days, the Saskatchewan River. It was cold and the frost set in early, freezing the river at Paradise Valley. From there the trip had to be finished by team and the services of an Indian guide. The first shack, built by Mr. Yettaw, was of heavy native timber, only lumber available at that time, with a sod roof and two half windows.

Alex and Minnie Yettaw married at Maccabee Hall, Ellsworth, Michigan. 1901. Minnie was 15½ years of age. Alex was 28 years of age.

In November it was time to move the family in. They came down as far as Vegreville on the CNR and for the rest of the journey, Mr. J. Berlinguette supplied the transportation via the covered wagon.

By the time the voyageurs had returned to their new home, it had snowed heavily and the seven acres broken were covered as well as the shack. Impossible to find it in the night, the kind hospitality of Mr. Saunders, killed in the second world war, was accepted. In the morning the shack was found and the pioneers dug in for the long winter months of solicitude with nothing much to do but wait for spring, trap and hunt for their meagre existence.



Yourself and Lady

are respectfully invited to attend

a Free Wedding Dance, on the evening of

Monday, the Eleventh Day of March

at Maccabee Hall in Ellsworth

in honor of the

Marriage on that date of

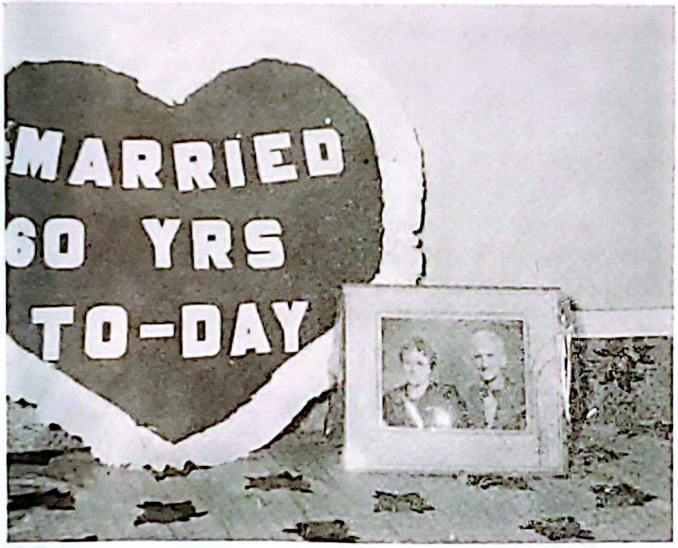
Mr. Alex Yettaw ..to.. Miss Minnie Wilks

Mr. and Mrs. Alex Yettaw beside their homestead home. NE 29-56-11-W4. 1906.

Mr. Alex Yettaw and his son Jency. This picure was taken in Sept. 1931. Jency passed away in January, 1933.

In the spring, money was needed to make a start and prove the homestead, so Mr. Yettaw headed back out to civilization looking for work. With Vegreville as his

Alex and Minnie Yettaw celebrating SIXTY years of happily married life. March 11, 1961. Their last anniversary together was March 11, 1966.



Alex and Minnie Yettaw, 1966.

destination, he started out walking and as he puts it "was chased by a bull for two miles", all of which hurried his travels into Vegreville and Edmonton.

Hard up for money, Mr. Yettaw was forced to accept the hospitality of the Police Department and sleep in the "caliboose" for one night after which he obtained work from J.J. Duggan on the base line.

Although farming was fast displacing ranching in Alberta, at that time, Mr. Yettaw nevertheless became a top notch cowboy, herding cattle across the river at about the site where the low level bridge is today. In the summer of 1906 he took 65 head of cattle across the low level bridge, to a livery barn owned by Mr. Hutter, two blocks west of the old CNR depot. Next day he herded them to a ranch near Namao.

Pioneering in those turbulent days was one harrowing experience after another, said Mr. Yettaw. On one

Yettaw sisters — Back - Margaret, Virginia, Arlie, Lula, Irene, Flossie.

Otto Yettaw (known as Mano).

Family Gathering at Alex Yettaw's Homestead. Standing - Left to Right - Charlie Desaulniers, Wm. Smith, Mano Yettaw, Alex Yettaw and Frank Desaulniers. Sitting - Irene Yettaw, Agnes Smith, Edith Smith, Lula Yettaw, Mrs. Minnie Yettaw, baby Jency and Flossie Yettaw. 1911.

occasion, while he was going to work Easter Sunday, he had to cross the Saskatchewan at a point where the ice was not considered too safe. With a board under each arm, just in case something happened, and it did, he started to cross. The ice gave in, but with his two life belts he was able to stay on top and managed to get his days work done.

Alex and Minnie Yettaw's homestead home at Foisy, Alberta. 1906. Their second home was a log building. It was replaced by a third home where they lived till their retirement in St. Paul in 1956.

Another time, in the night, having lost his sense of direction, he wandered into the Vermilion River arriving in Vegreville wet to the skin. Mr. Jack Richardson came to the rescue with a change of clothing and the incident was forgotten as just one of those little tribulations encountered with pioneering.

Most homesteaders of that era were forced to abandon their holdings for months at a time, in search of work to buy the necessities until they got a foothold on the land. Mr. Yettaw left his wife on the homestead to keep the home fires burning. And it was hard on her and the women of that day, most of whom were not used to the hardships of isolation in the lonely wilderness, but they bore the trials and tribulations without complaint.

Today, Mr. and Mrs. Yettaw have raised and educated a family of eight children while at the same time contributed enormously to the progress and development of this district. They stand out as an example of the pioneer spirit and courage which kept them on the same land all these years.

Mr. and Mrs. Alex Yettaw celebrated on March 11th, 1961, 60 years of happy married life marking their diamond jubilee. They had nine children, eight still living at the time, 30 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. At the time Mr. Yettaw was 89 years of age, while Mrs. Yettaw was 75. Both were enjoying good health.

(Flossie) Married Joseph Austin.
Otto was single.
Mrs. Andrew Robinson (Arlee).
Mrs. Hormidas Paradis (Marguerite).
Jack Yettaw. Bella Olexuik.
Mr. Bill Chornohus (Virginia).
Mrs. Earl Shymann (Irene).
Mrs. Henry Boldue (Lula).

BILL CHORNOHUS AND FAMILY

by Florence Mailloux

Bill was born in Shandro, Alberta in 1923 and moved to St. Brides at an early age. He joned the Army in Edmonton on Jan. 21st, 1942 and served in Canada, United Kingdom and Continental Europe. He returned home in Dec. 1945, to where his Dad, Nick Chornohus,

The Bill Choronohus Family. Ronnie, Virginia, Darlene, Bill, Barbara, Barrie.

had bought the former Jos. Henley farm. In June 1946, he married Virginia Yettaw and in the spring of 1947 they bought the former Hellerud farm and farmed there for thirty years, moving to St. Paul in the spring of '76. Bill also worked for the Two Hills Chemical for a number of years.

They had four children: Ronald married to Elaine Lavallee, now of Whitecourt; Barbara married to Keith Douglas, now residing in Bruderheim; Barry of Edmonton; Darlene married to Ronald Balash, St. Paul.

Jack Yettaw and his wife Bella.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Yettaw retired to St. Paul in 1956. Their youngest son, Jack, who had married Bella Olexuik of Vilna, Alberta, in 1941, took over the farming operation. They raised a family of 5 children: 1 son and 4 daughters: Ken Yettaw of Foisy - married to Gloria Poliwada. Diane Theroux of Two Hills. Louise Bisson of St. Paul. Sheila - attending school in St. Paul (Gr. 11).

They have been married 39 years and have 10 grandchildren.

APPENDIX

ARCHINUIK PETE farmed on the N.E. 15-56-12-W4th for many years and married Martha Harmatiuk. They had a family of five children.

ARCHINUIK MIKE married Mary Harasym and farmed on the N.W. 15-56-12-W4th. They had a family of ten children.

AUCOIN STANLEY taught school in Beauvallon in 1915 and came to Duvernay in 1917 and purchased Mathias Theroux's general store and operated it for several years. He also had the Massey Harris Machine Agency and other business as well as being the local Justice of Peace. They made their home on the upper level of the building till it was purchased by the Edmonton Brewery and torn down to make room for the Riverside Hotel. He also owned the south half of section 27-55-12-W4th., where the Two Hills Chemical Plant is situtated today. Stanley Aucoin passed away in 1953 at the age of eighty three.

They had a family of eight, at a family reunion (Stanley Aucion's Family) in 1973: Jacque, Josephine, Maggie, Andre, Exilda, Cecile, Joseph, Yvonne. The last three were born in Duvernay.

BROOKS GORDON came from the state of Oregon when he was only 20 years old. His father had a pottery business and he was a potter himself, but he didn't like that work, so he decided to come to Alberta and try his luck at farming instead. He bought Elie Theroux's farm the N.W. 30-55-12-W4th. and later bought a quarter of land from Bill Chibris.

In 1935 he married Alice Werenka. Besides farming he was a good vet but didn't have his papers. He helped many farmers with sick animals. He also did some pottery work. He made a complete set of dishes, which one of his daughters still have today.

They had a family of five children David, Rose, Ronald, Daisy and Ellen who died at eighteen months. Mr. Brooks passed away in 1947 and is buried in Luzan Cemetary.

Adam Werenka and Nellie Kott in 1935.

GAMACHE CAMILLE is the son of Aurthur Gamache Sr. and Marie Charron born on June 15, 1903 and came to Brosseau in 1911 where they took a homestead. In the years of 1926 on Nov. 22 he married Ida Roberge from Beauvallon with Father. Chartrand performing the ceremony. They S.W. 26-55-12-W4th for a few years then bought a farm in Duvernay. It was about 1945 when they moved to St. Albert.

They had a family of four children; Roland, Adrien, Yvonne, Florence and now Ida Gamache resides in Edmonton and Camille has passed away.

DORAIS JOSEPH came to Brosseau in 1904 and homesteaded the S.E. 14-56-12-W4th of 4th. He was the first teacher to teach in the Brosseau school. In 1912 he went back east for a holiday and traded his farm for Mr. Greniers house and never came back west.

DUQUETTE MOISE GEORGE built the first livery barn in Duvernay and later he built the one on Brosseau Street in Brosseau. He also bought Joe Poulin's homestead for fourteen dollars an acre. A rediculous price for land in 1908. Later he moved to St. Paul and built a livery barn there.

DESPIN NAPOLEON and his wife Catherine nee Leveque had a store in Grand Falls, when he decided to come west. He got a job as manager of the Richelieu Hotel in Winnipeg in 1904. He met lots of travellers coming from the west and they all painted a bright picutre of this part of the country. He was lured by their stories and made his way to Edmonton in the spring of 1906. He got news that a manager was needed here in Duvernay to manage the Riverview Hotel. He applied for the position and was accepted. When the family moved in their new quarters they realized that it lacked the facilities of the Richelieu Hotel they had just left. But accepted the short coming. They weren't there very long when to Mrs. Despins regret, he decided to go homesteading instead. He filed on the S.W. 20-56-12-W4th. It was a beautiful place amongst the spruce trees, with a nice spring flowing nearby.

Mr. Despin was not cut out for the farm, he was a wonderful orator and spent most of his time on political and business tours for the government. In 1920 he opened a general store and had the Post Office in Lafond, till his wife passed away in 1924. The rest of his

life he spent as a travelling salesman. He passed away in Edmonton and was buried in the St. Paul Cemetary. His wife's body who had been buried in the Brosseau cemetary was moved by his side, their final resting place.

GADBOIS LEONARD had a jeweller Shop in Brosseau in 1906. He also homesteaded the S.W. 4-57-11-W4th. situated where Foisy store is today. In the early 20's he closed his shop here in Brosseau and opened one in St. Paul, where the town was booming after the arrival of the railroad.

MARSH BILL was born in Foisy and is the son of Albert Marsh and Agnes Smith. He went to school in Foisy. He married Stella Jean a widow with 2 children Albert and Marcel and farmed the N.W. 33-56-11-W4th. In the early 50's he moved to Brosseau and was one of the first to be employed by the Two Hills Chemical Plant. He first lived in Ovila Vincents house and later bought Leo Marceau's farm the S.W. 2-56-12-W4th, and farmed as a sideline. In 1978 he sold his farm and moved to St. Paul and is still employed by the Two Hills Chemical Co.

They have seven children from this marriage; Allen married Debbie Chisan, Lorraine married Gerry Parenteau, Robert married Georgette Chrapko, Marguerite married John Chrapko, Henry, Doris and Joanne are not married.

RUDYK ART son of Harry Rudyk and Eva Poplaska, married Emily Semotiuk on November 14, 1953. They lived in Vegreville till 1955, when he left and got on with Western Chemical here in Duvernay. He worked here for eighteen years, and did some mechanic work in his own garage at home. He couldn't keep up with the garage work he had at home so he quit the plant and started a full time garage business. Later he moved his business to a garage on highway 45 on the outskirt of the town of Two Hills. His son Brian is a mechanic and works with his dad in the shop. Gary is manager of a music store in Calgary.

RUDYK ED Art's brother came to Duvernay a few years after and is still employed at the Two Hills chemical Plant. He is married to Joyce Sicol and have a family of four boys and one girl; Mark, Michael, Marshell, Marguerite and Mathew.

SIROIS JEAN BAPTISTE (King) came to Duvernay in 1911 and farmed the S.E. 34-55-11-W4th. Later he bought the S.W. 14-55-12-W4th. After he retires his son Ernest took over the place. He married Rose Hrushka and had a family of five children. Ernest and Rose retired in Edmonton. Ernest has since passed away.

TOWPICH DAN operated a general store in Duvernay for many years. It was situated next block south of the Riverview Hotel.

THEROUX LOUIS son of Mathias Theroux and Malvina Dupius married Eva Theroux on January 9th, 1917. She was the daughter of Napoleon Despin. They were married by Father J.B. Leduc. They lived in Duvernay and Brosseau and in the early twenties, moved to St. Paul where he was employed in the local Hotel. He also lived on the farm for a short time. Later he moved to Cold Lake and got employment in the Hotel as bar tender. They had two sons, Ted, who was secretary for the Municipal District of St. Paul and later for Bonnyville. Prosper worked for a power company, they had two daughters, Yolande and Lucienne. Louis passed away in Cold Lake and Eva is leading a happy life in the Strathcona Place Residence.

DR. HARDY CHARLES married Marie Anne St. Hilaire on January 11th, 1915. They were married by Father Leduc. He was the only doctor north of Vegreville for many years. When St. Paul got a doctor and the business slakened he moved to Falher, where he spent the rest of his days practicing.

HILLERUD ELMER farmed on the N.E. 24-56-12-W4th. He arrived there around 1916. Later he also bought the north-west quarter. The last few years in this area, him and his son Gifford farmed the N.¼ of 21-56-12-W4th.

Gifford married Marie Louise Soulou and they have a family of five children. In his young days Gifford was one of the best baseball pitchers in the area. They later moved to the Grande Prairie area, where they still reside today.

Elmer had two more sons Floyd and Lenny and they both spent four years in the army overseas during world war two. They also had two daughters Birdy and Hazel.

GAUTHIER HORACE was the first blacksmith in Brosseau. He built his shop on Brosseau street. Later when his health failed he sold his business and moved away.

KABAGE BILL is the son of Stephana and Annie Kabage. He married Nancy McCullough and farmed on his father's homestead, the S.E. 12-56-12-W4th. They later moved to Edmonton and was employed by the city for a few years. When he retired they moved to Canyon Creek, a beautiful spot on the shore of Lessor Lake. They have four children Laurette, Charlotte, Marlene and Don.

KUPCHANKO BILL was born in the Luzan district and is the son of Metro Kupchanko and Rosie Goroniuk. He attended school at Luzan and married Elsie Woloschuk. They bought the S.W. 10-56-12-W4th. in 1950 and farmed there till his accidental death in 1976. His son Jim took over the farm and has been farming it ever since. They had two children; Jim married Lorrie Rosychuk and Marcia married Jim Twerdoclib and lives in St. Albert.

LEBLANC SEVERIN was a teacher and taught in the Brosseau and Duvernay School. He later moved to Lafond and operated the store and Post Office and was the Secretary Treasurer of the Municipal District #544 for five years.

MOISIN ELZEAR came to Duvernay in 1904. He built a large house on the lot where Cherniwchan store is today and his wife operted a boarding house and he operated a chop mill. He also did carpenter work as a side line.

PLOUFFE FRANK came to Brosseau in 1916 and managed the Richelieu hotel for a time. Later he farmed on Section 25-56-12-W4th. He was well known for his ability to play base ball. His sons also followed his example and were good baseball players also.

Published in the St. Paul Journal

Alberta's pioneers

They came from many places to settle in the west,
they had no hankering to longer roam.
And everybody told them Alberta is the best,
that's where you want to build your future home.
They said the sun is shining there twenty hours a day,
of frost and hail, no one has ever known.
And when it rains, clouds always quickly go away,
and any kind of crops can there be grown.

Then early in the Century Alberta got a name,
that's when the heart of Canada was born.
When rails were laid out west, from all over they came,
the oxcart trails would be no longer worn.
They settled in the parklands and on the prairie soil,
the future of their family assured.
They didn't fear the loneliness, they didn't fear the toil,
it would take before their poverty was cured.

As soon as they had shelter the man would have to leave
to try and make a dollar if he could.
And while he was away the family would cleave,
to the shelter, often made of rails and mud.
They always faced the loneliness, the cold and winter snow,
their living had to come out of the land.
They often needed help but had no place to go,
it's a plight that very few will understand.

A woman had to walk many miles to find the cow,
the ox, she used as good as any man.
She tried to get some land ready for the plow,
as many acres as she possibly can.
And when the man returned with the horses and the plow,
he could set to and turn the virgin soil.
And always he did wonder and couldn't see just how,
she accomplished that besides the other toil.

With courage, love and loyalty, she served her family,
she always had their welfare, first in mind.
She always looked forward to the day they would be free,
of debt and some security would find.
Now in this happy year of Alberta's jubilee,
We salute them with thanks and many cheers.
They all have done so much of their own and you and me,
they are Alberta's true pioneers.

Today we are occupied with Alberta's gas and oil,
the source of strife and all the human greed.
We easily forget that it was Alberta's soil,
that drew and satisfied the settlers need.
When oil is just a memory, our wealth have came and gone,
the wells of gas and oil, no longer yields.
The farmers of our province will still be carrying on
And grain will still be waving in our fields.

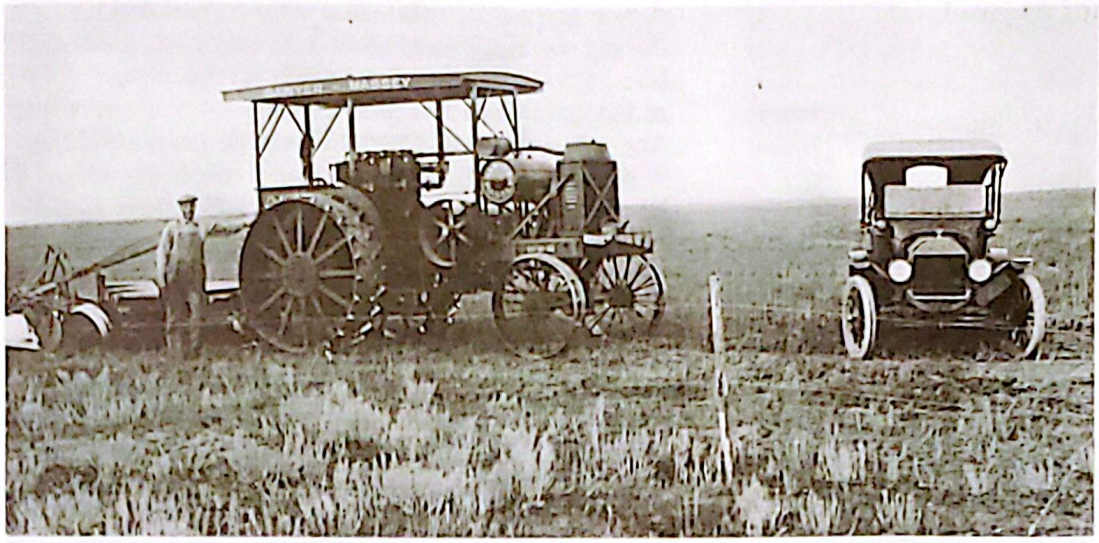
By JESS LIEN

RODEO QUEENS

Left to right, Karen Hutskal, Ginette Dupperron, David Chomik, Christine Delawski and Connie Semeniuk, in 1977.

Lorraine and Bob Bachelet with Louise, Rodeo Queen for 1977.

Yolande Bachelet, Rodeo Queen for 1978, with Gina Sefranka on the Lion's Float in the parade.



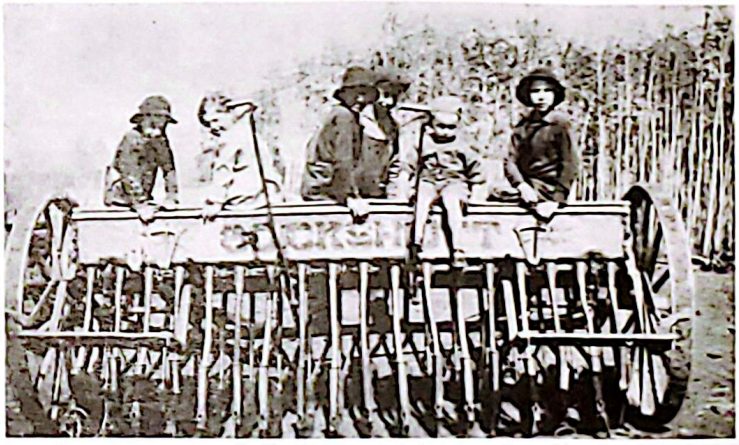
Emery, Theroux's Sawyer. Massey Gas Tractor and modern car in 1922.

FARM MACHINERY

Loading a load of bundles for the threshing machine.

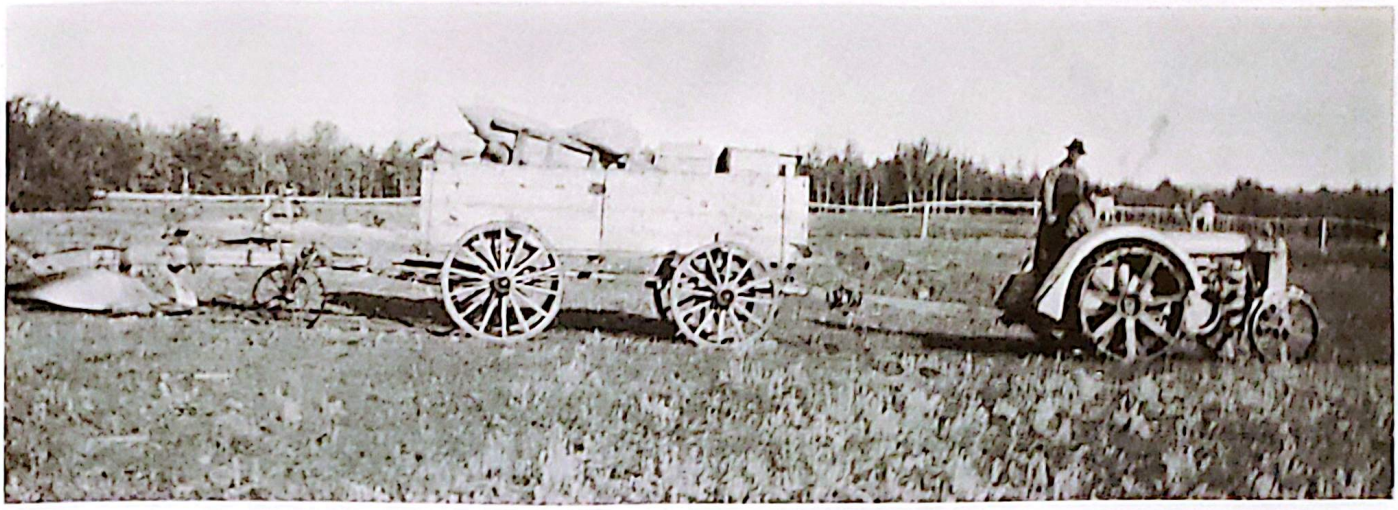
An oversize load of hay.

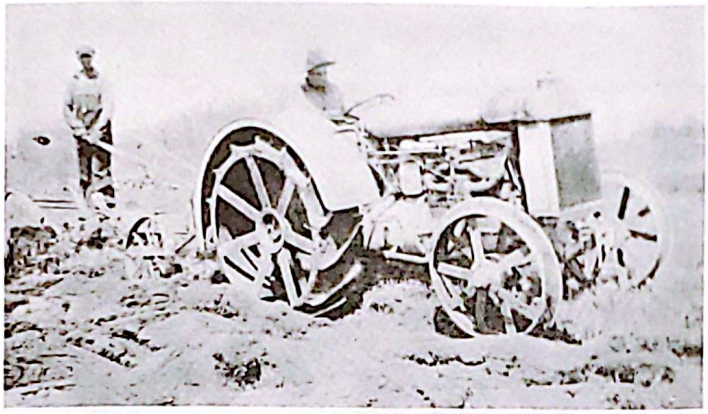
Stacking hay.



Some of the Coutu children on the drill.

Road building in early days wasn't as mechanized as it is today, but they got the work done anyway.

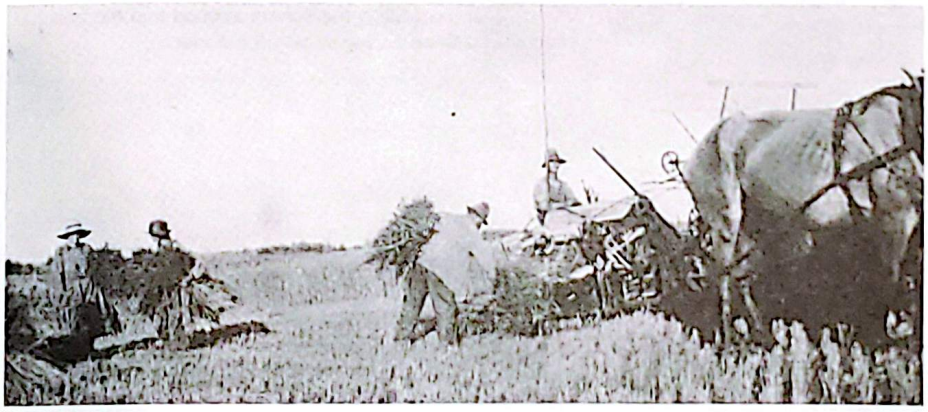




Breaking land with a 10-20 Fordson Tractor in 1927. Emile Coutu on plow and Hector Coutu on tractor.

Road Grading the street in front of the Riverside Hotel in 1927.

Cutting wheat in the twenties at Mafty Sherstianka's (note the ladies stooking).

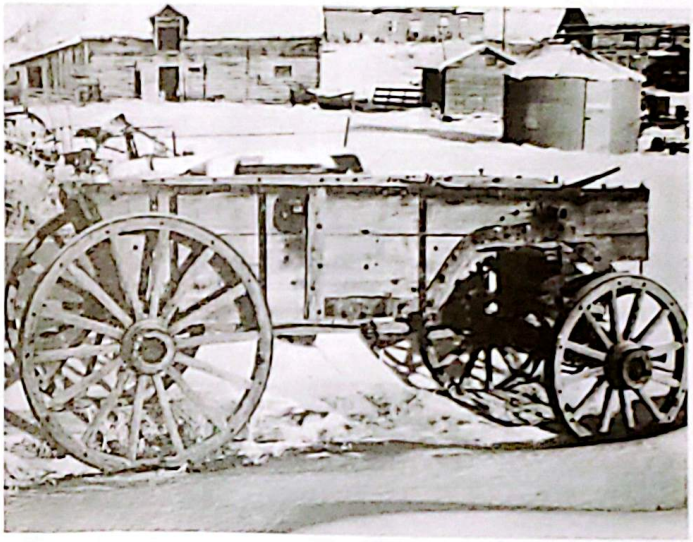


Adrian Ouellette plowing with horses (1930). Stacking bundles. Peter and Adam Werenka's, 1920.

Grain Binder outfits binding sheaves in 1926.

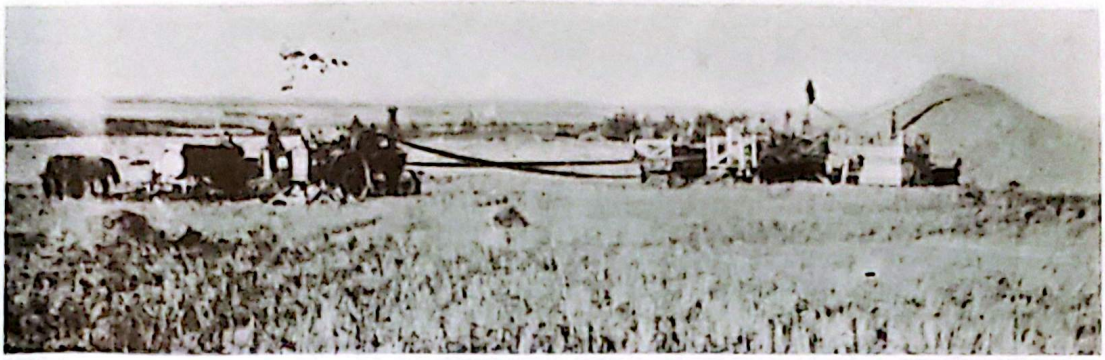
Mr. Zephyr St. Hilaire and crew, breaking land in 1924.

Metro Pundick at Foisy bringing in the winter supply of wood in 1935. SW-20-56-11-W4.

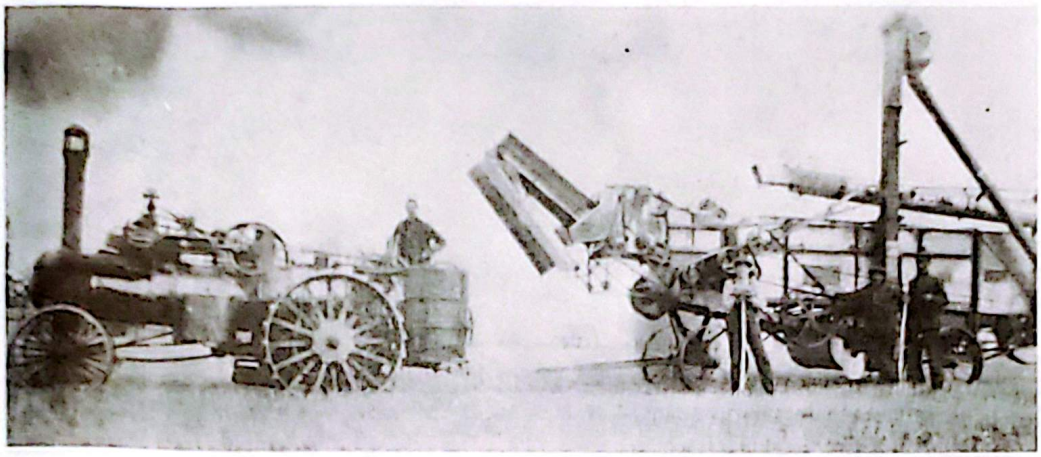


This is a wagon used to haul dirt to build the C.P.R. grade to Two Hills in 1926. When a lever was pulled, the bottom opened and the box emptied without having to get off the seat.

Loading bundles with a front end loader in 1945.

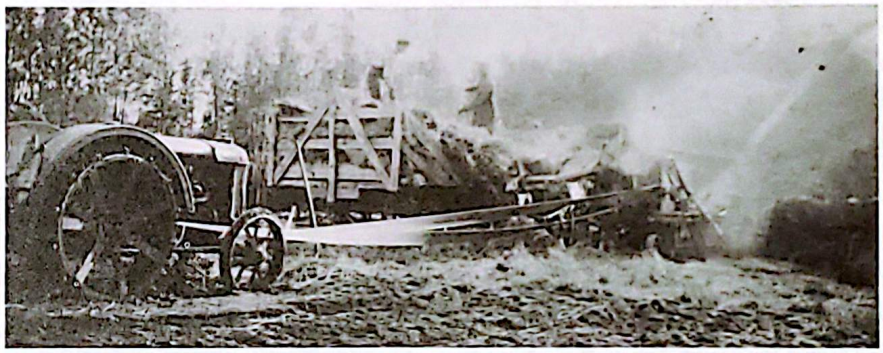


Mr. Mars Girard's steam threshing outfit at work on his farm in 1916.

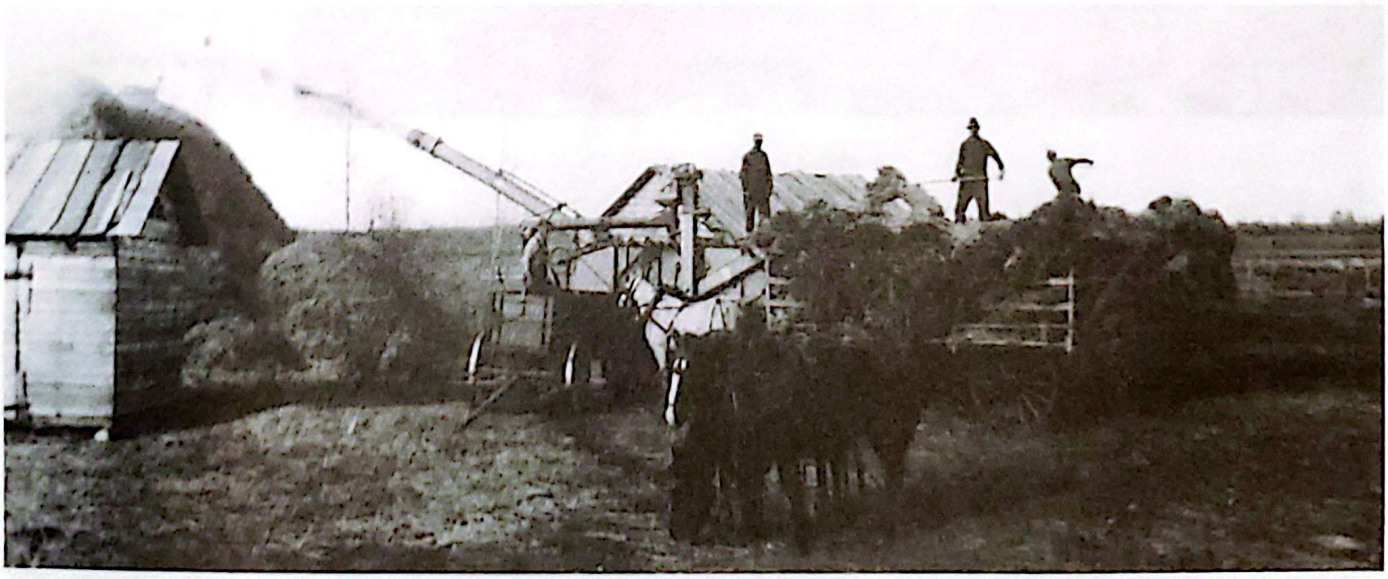


Mr. Mars Girard's steam engine and threshing machine in 1916.

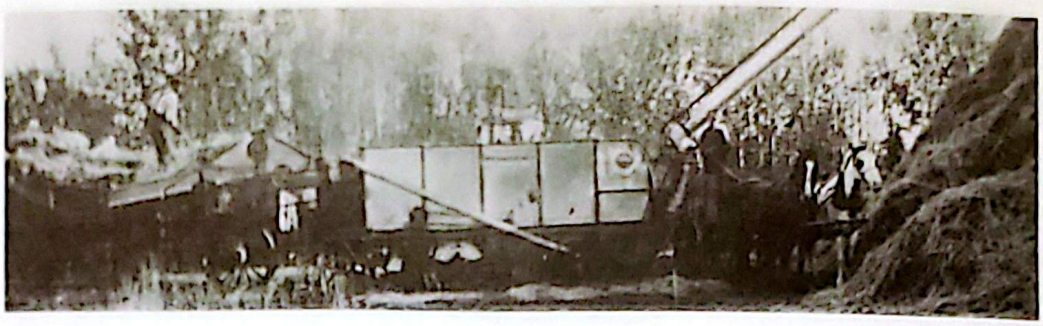
THRESHING SCENES



Threshing Machine in 1927. Note the dust.

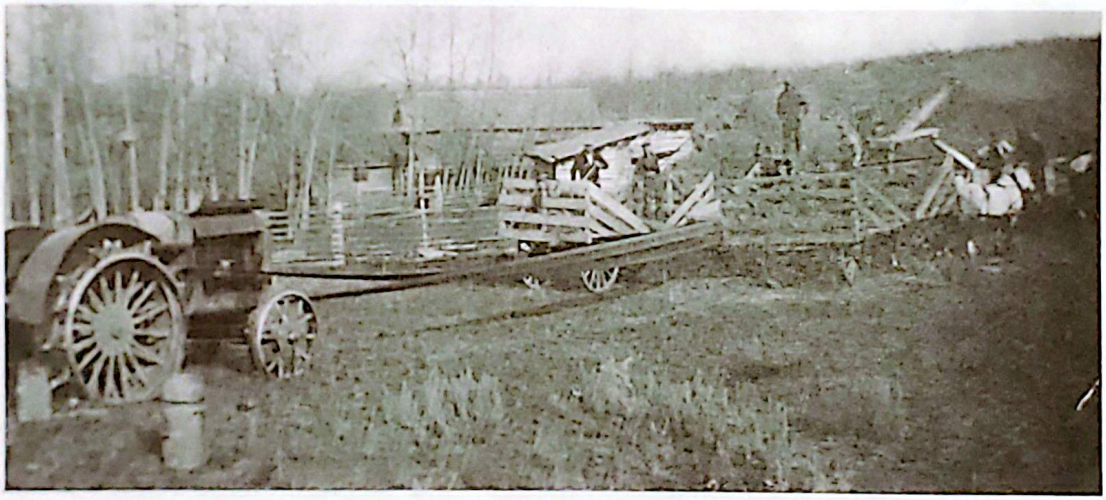


A clear view of the grain separator and the men hard at work pitching bundles.

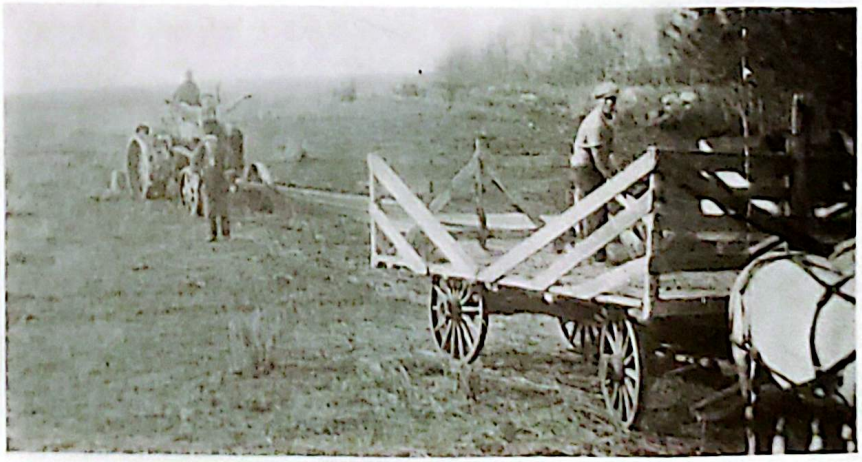


A well loaded load of bundles drives in to unload at the machine.

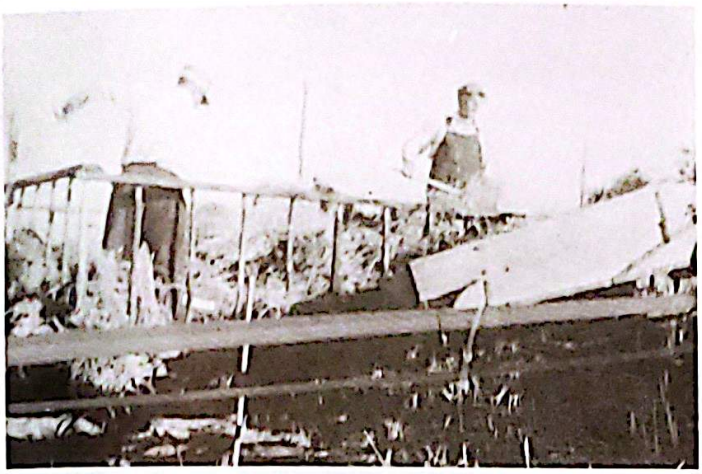
A threshing day on Mars Girard's farm. Grandpa and Grandma Girard are out for a walk, Valéda and the younger children are in the democrat.

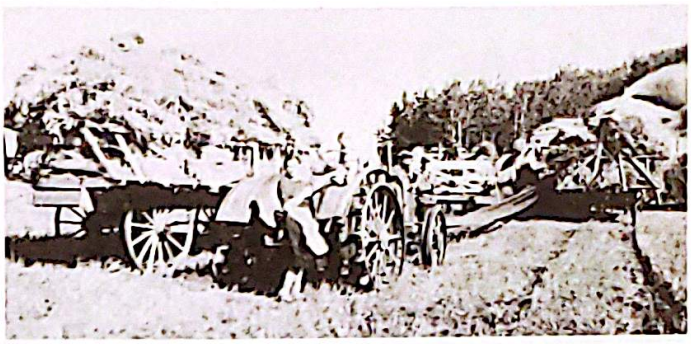


George Taschuk Threshing Machine in 1930.



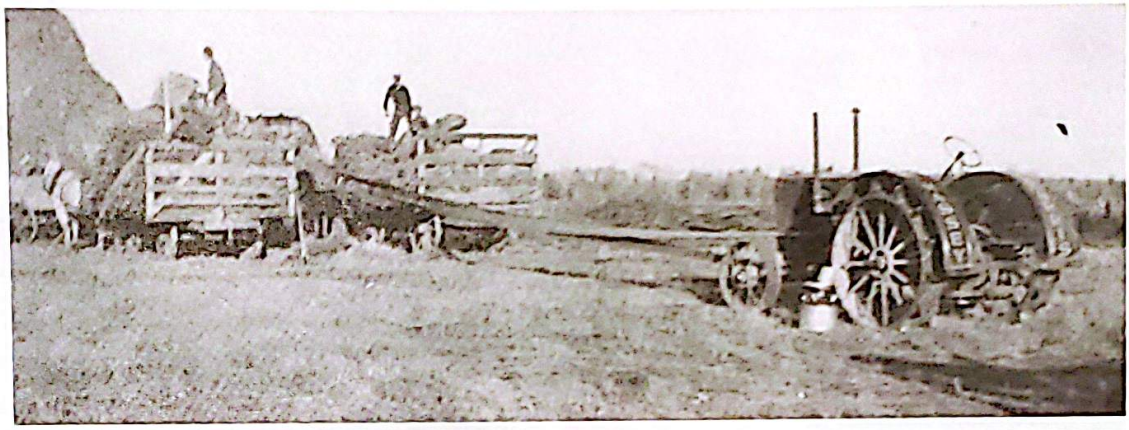
Steve Popowich finished unloading his bundle rack in the threshing machine.





Threshing in 1938 with a steel wheeled tractor with lugs.

Dave Chrapko and Ernest King feeding a threshing machine in 1935.



Another threshing scene in 1939.

BROSSEAU-DUVERNAY HOMECOMING 1980 CELEBRATES UNVEILING OF HISTORY BOOK AND ALBERTA'S 75th ANNIVERSARY

—Courtesy of the Vegreville Observer

Dr. Ralph Steinhauer M.C's. program at Brosseau-Duvernay Homecoming.

They came from as far as Union City, California, decendants of generations past, to contribute to an evident pride of history and heritage that prevaded the Brosseau-Duvernay Homecoming the weekend of August 30th and 31st.

On Sunday afternoon, at the Brosseau Community Hall, a history of Brosseau-Duvernay and surrounding area entitled "Our Crossing" was introduced. Master of Ceremonies for the occasion was Mr. Ralph Steinhauer.

Among the guests to have been present were MLA John Batiuk and MP Don Mazankowski, but due to unavoidable commitments elsewhere, they extended their regrets along with messages with Mr. Steve Shybunka who presented them on their behalf.

In his message, Mr. Mazankowski expressed good wishes and congratulations. "Brosseau and district is a vital component of the development of the Province of Alberta and I proudly salute those who settled here, and worked here and provided each of us with a solid foundation upon which to build our future", read, in part, the Member of Parliament's message.

Mr. Steve Shybunka relates messages from MLA John Batiuk and M.P. Don Mazankowski, who were unable to attend the celebrations.

Mr. Shybunka, after reading the absentee's messages, then continued as representative of the Town of Two Hills. "What better way can one achieve a milestone of one's own community but only through the whole community's participation can that be achieved", said Mr. Shybunka in reference to the Homecoming celebrations. Comparatively, Mr. Shybunka added, "We are also very fortunate, that we have clubs and people with leader-

Mr. Jerry Royer of the Alberta 75th Anniversary Commission sees the future as a challenge utilizing energies and efforts of the people of Alberta.

ship qualities who are dedicated to their community and are constantly exercising alertness as to the growth and development of our community".

A Canadian flag, aptly signifying the unity of a French, Indian and Ukrainian settlement in Alberta, was presented to Mr. Steinhauer from Mr. Mazankowski, via Mr. Shybunka.

The Alberta 75th Anniversary Commission was represented by Mr. Jerry Royer, a coordinator for the area. Mr. Royer, though aware of the celebrations of the past was concerned and concentrated on the future, seeing it as a challenge that will utilize the energies and efforts of people similar to the spirit evoked by the 75th Anniversary.

Mr. Royer concluded by saying that he was happy to have been invited to this 75th anniversary celebration by Mr. and Mrs. Hector Coutu and that this hard working couple was an asset to any community and should be congratulated for today's achievements.

Special guest speaker for the afternoon was Dr. Bernard Brosseau, a descendant of Brosseau-Duvernay history. He presented views not commonly voiced in this area, however, the response he received was supportive though possibly not unanimous, for he hit upon the consciousness of all present by discussing values. The "materialastic attitude" of todays society. "We have forgotten that money is secondary. We have to return to those traditional values. We have to make the attempt. We have to try," said Dr. Brosseau, emphatically. The values he spoke of were those of the pioneers, of congeniality, the willingness to work hard for others and a return to religion.

Special guest speaker, Dr. Bernard Brosseau, Descendant of the founding pioneers of Brosseau.

Bob Bachelet, president of the historical society talks about the history book that dominated nine months of work to complete.

Mr. Bob Bachelet concluded the speeches, focussing on the book, "Our Crossing From River to Roads". Grants for the book were received from New Horizon and hope to get a five thousand dollar grant from Alberta Culture when we can present them with the final cost for the production of the book.

This book was dedicated to the people of Brosseau and Duvernay and surrounding area, to the Indians who were here first, to the homestaeder who settled the land and to the residents who today remain on the land. Included in the book are stories of the travels on the North Saskstchewan river, tales of the Indians and the first begining of the settlement. Mr. Bachelet said that these twin hamlets were here before Two Hills or St. Paul, but now are slowly disappearing but through our efforts of composing this history book they will never be forgotten.

Mr. Bachelet thanked Mrs. Noells Brosseau and Mrs. Werenka and their kitchen staff for having prepared and served the delicious meals during these two days of celebration. He also thanked all those who contributed their services to help make this 75th celebration a success.

Thanks should go to Lucia Robinson for the work she has done in her own home, collecting stories, placing captions on pictures and so on. She was a great help to get this book work done when time was crucial. And to all the other members that collected stories, typed, proof read and helped in any other way to get this worthwhile project completed. No members took money for services rendered. They all returned their fees as donations to the club, which helped keep the book cost down.

Special thanks should go to Mr. Coutu who was the editor and was in charge of the make-up of this book with the help of the Co-op Press Consultant, Chris Knight. He put in thousands of hours in order to put the book together. He also contributed over one hundred pages of material and at least three hundred pictures. He travelled many Thousands of miles without charging anything for his expenses.

The money that Suzan and Hector could have collected for office space in their home, power, telephone and heat, was returned to the book club as donation.

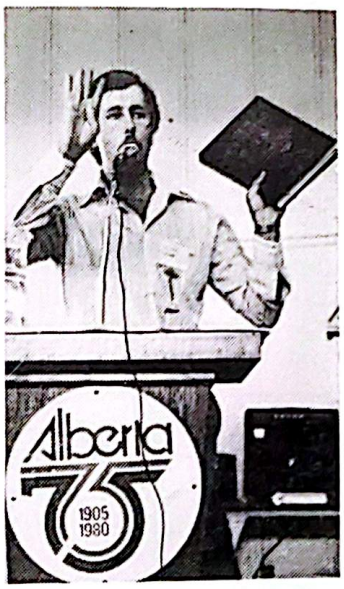
His wife Susan put in many hours as Club Secretary, answering phone calls, writing

letters, interviewing, proof reading and selling books. They forfeited their summer holidays to make sure the book would be ready for today and as you all know, we just made it without any time to spare.

Mr. Coutu was also the Treasurer and through his watchful eye on financing we were able to sell this 600 page book for twenty dollars, a bargain at that price.

Mr. Hector Coutu, the organizer of Homecoming 1980, received a Merit Award from the Canadian Government. He has been the organizer of Homecoming since its beginning 5 years ago and through his planning and hard work, as you can see by the large crowd here today to help us celebrate Homecoming 1980 and the unveiling of the Brosseau-Duvernay and surrounding area history book. His efforts are appreciated by all and for him it really paid off to see such a nice crowd here today.

The first four books of "Our Crossing" were auctioned off at the conclusion of the ceremonies. Book No. 1 is the only one of its kind bound in black leather. Books No. 2, 3 and 4 are identical with brown leather binding. The buyer's name is to be inscribed in gold on the front cover of each book.



Auctioneer Mr. Don Hutton begins bids on an exclusive edition of the history book "Our Crossing Rivers to Roads".

Mr. Hector Coutu bought the first book for $1,600.00. The second went to Rick Brosseau for $450.00, the third to Bob Bachelet for $600.00 and the fourth to Ralph Steinhauer for $700.00.

During the course of the weekend, slow pitch soft ball and Old Timers baseball tournament was held. The 'A' event of the Slow-Pitch was won by the Coutu team and the 'B' event by the Babiuk team, sponsored by R & D Sporting Goods of Two Hills.

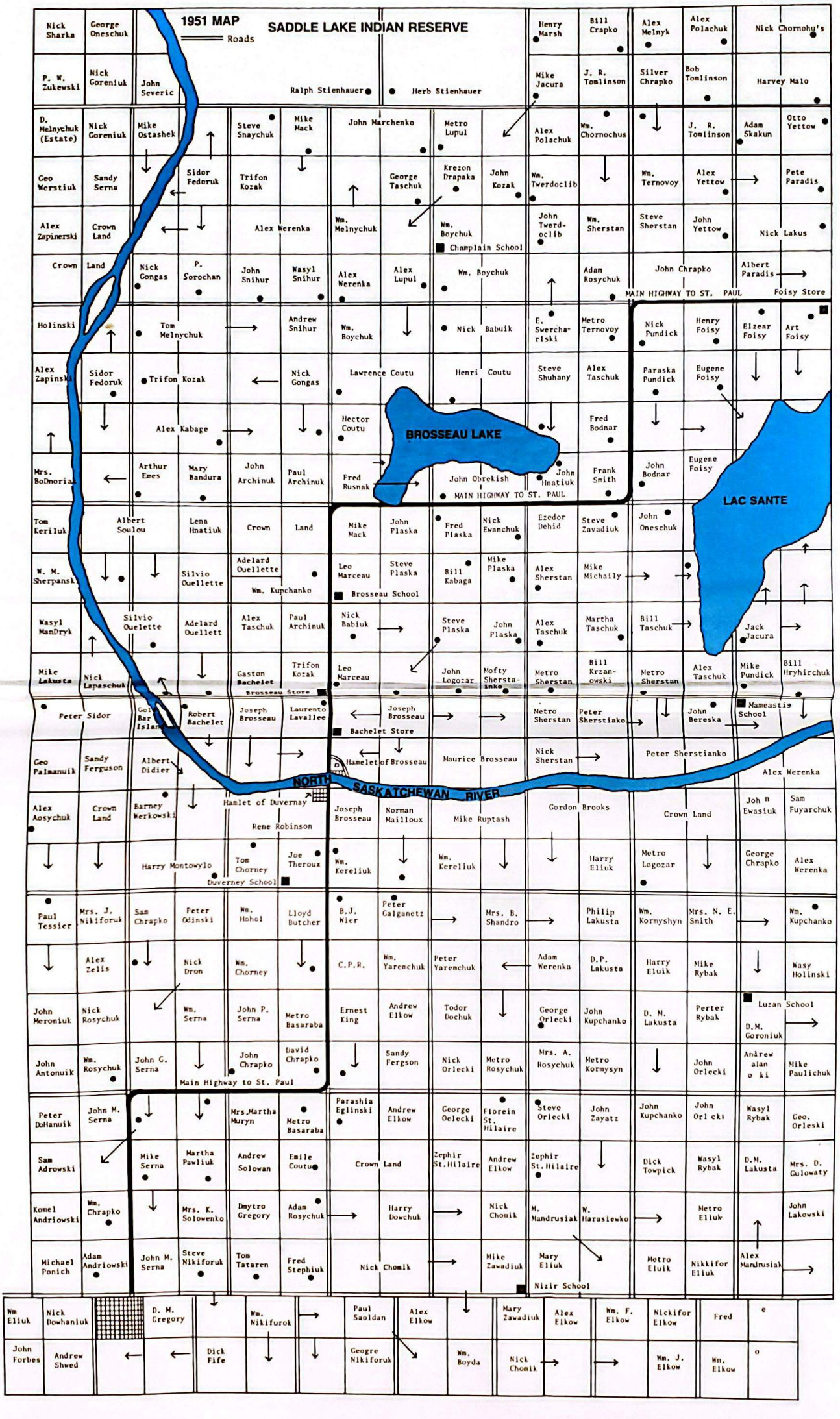
The Two Hills team won the Oldtimer's baseball tournament, defeating Hairy Hill 17 to 8 in the final game. The most valuable player was chosen on each team by the players. Gary Gorsline was the Two Hills most valuable player, receiving a plaque donated by Toma Farm Equipment. Dennis Ursulak was most valuable player for Hairy Hill, and he also received a plaque from Toma Farm Equipment. The most valuable player for the Brosseau team was to be chosen later.

Entertainment throughout the weekend was provided by Jim St. Germain and his Country Comebacks. Mr. St. Germain entertains at many functions in the area and he said he does it as a hobby.

We would like to thank Sharon Novakowski, reporter for the St. Paul Journal, for doing such a good job covering our 75th celebration. We also thank Mr. Drouin for letting us use most of her material and pictures in this story.

Brosseau-Duvernay
Historical Book Club.

Dr. Ralph Steinhauer presents Mr. Hector Coutu with appreciative gifts of thanks.


1951 MAP
SADDLE LAKE INDIAN RESERVE
Roads
BROSSEAU LAKE
LAC SANTE
NORTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER
Ralph Stienhauer
Herb Stienhauer
John Obrekish
MAIN HIGHWAY TO ST. PAUL
Champlain School
Brosseau School
Bachelet Store
Brosseau Store
Hamlet of Brosseau
Hamlet of Duvernay
Duverney School
Main Highway to St. Paul
Foisy Store
Mameastis School
Luzan School
Nizir School
Nick Sharka
George Oneschuk
P. W. Zukewski
Nick Goreniuk
John Severic
Henry Marsh
Bill Crapko
Alex Melnyk
Alex Polachuk
Nick Chornohu's
Mike Jacura
J. R. Tomlinson
Silver Chrapko
Bob Tomlinson
Harvey Malo
D. Melnychuk (Estate)
Nick Goreniuk
Mike Ostashek
Steve Snaychuk
Mike Mack
John Marchenko
Metro Lupul
Alex Polachuk
Wm. Chornochus
J. R. Tomlinson
Adam Skakun
Otto Yettow
Geo Werstiuk
Sandy Serna
Sidor Fedoruk
Trifon Kozak
George Taschuk
Krezon Drapaka
John Kozak
Wm. Twerdoclib
Wm. Ternovoy
Alex Yettow
Pete Paradis
Alex Zapinerski
Crown Land
Alex Werenka
Wm. Melnychuk
Wm. Boychuk
John Twerd-oclib
Wm. Sherstan
Steve Sherstan
John Yettow
Nick Lakus
Crown Land
Nick Gongas
P. Sorochan
John Snihur
Wasyl Snihur
Alex Werenka
Alex Lupul
Wm. Boychuk
Adam Rosychuk
John Chrapko
Albert Paradis
Holinski
Tom Melnychuk
Andrew Snihur
Wm. Boychuk
Nick Babuik
E. Swercha-rlski
Metro Ternovoy
Nick Pundick
Henry Foisy
Elzear Foisy
Art Foisy
Alex Zapinski
Sidor Fedoruk
Trifon Kozak
Nick Gongas
Lawrence Coutu
Henri Coutu
Steve Shuhany
Alex Taschuk
Paraska Pundick
Eugene Foisy
Alex Kabage
Hector Coutu
Fred Bodnar
Mrs. BoDnoria
Arthur Emes
Mary Bandura
John Archinuk
Paul Archinuk
Fred Rusnak
John Hnatiuk
Frank Smith
John Bodnar
Eugene Foisy
Tom Keriluk
Albert Soulou
Lena Hnatiuk
Crown Land
Mike Mack
John Plaska
Fred Plaska
Nick Ewanchuk
Ezedor Dehid
Steve Zavadiuk
John Oneschuk
W. M. Sherpansk
Silvio Ouellette
Adelard Ouellette
Wm. Kupchanko
Leo Marceau
Steve Plaska
Bill Kabaga
Mike Plaska
Alex Sherstan
Mike Michaily
Wasyl ManDryk
Silvio Ouelette
Adelard Ouellett
Alex Taschuk
Paul Archinuk
Nick Babiuk
Steve Plaska
John Plaska
Alex Taschuk
Martha Taschuk
Bill Taschuk
Jack Jacura
Mike Lakusta
Nick Lapaschuk
Gaston Bachelet
Trifon Kozak
Leo Marceau
John Logozar
Mofty Shersta-inko
Metro Sherstan
Bill Krzan-owski
Metro Sherstan
Alex Taschuk
Mike Pundick
Bill Hryhirchuk
Peter Sidor
Robert Bachelet
Joseph Brosseau
Laurento Lavallee
Joseph Brosseau
Metro Sherstan
Peter Sherstiako
John Bereska
Geo Palmanuik
Sandy Ferguson
Albert Didier
Maurice Brosseau
Nick Sherstan
Peter Sherstianko
Alex Werenka
Alex Aosychuk
Crown Land
Barney Werkowski
Rene Robinson
Joseph Brosseau
Norman Mailloux
Mike Ruptash
Gordon Brooks
Crown Land
Joh n Ewasiuk
Sam Fuyarchuk
Harry Montowylo
Tom Chorney
Joe Theroux
Wm. Kereliuk
Wm. Kereliuk
Harry Eliuk
Metro Logozar
George Chrapko
Alex Werenka
Paul Tessier
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Sam Chrapko
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Wm. Hohol
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B.J. Wier
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Mrs. B. Shandro
Philip Lakusta
Wm. Kormyshyn
Mrs. N. E. Smith
Wm. Kupchanko
Alex Zelis
Nick Dron
Wm. Chorney
C.P.R.
Wm. Yaremchuk
Peter Yaremchuk
Adam Werenka
D.P. Lakusta
Harry Eluik
Mike Rybak
Wasy Holinski
John Meroniuk
Nick Rosychuk
Wm. Serna
John P. Serna
Metro Basaraba
Ernest King
Andrew Elkow
Todor Dochuk
George Orlecki
John Kupchanko
D. M. Lakusta
Perter Rybak
D.M. Goroniuk
John Antonuik
Wm. Rosychuk
John G. Serna
John Chrapko
David Chrapko
Sandy Fergson
Nick Orlecki
Metro Rosychuk
Mrs. A. Rosychuk
Metro Kormysyn
John Orlecki
Andrew alan o ki
Mike Paulichuk
Peter DoHanuik
John M. Serna
Mrs.Martha Muryn
Metro Basaraba
Parashia Eglinski
Andrew Elkow
George Oelecki
Fiorein St. Hilaire
Steve Orlecki
John Zayatz
John Kupchanko
John Orl cki
Wasyl Rybak
Geo. Orleski
Sam Adrowski
Mike Serna
Martha Pawliuk
Andrew Solowan
Emile Coutu
Crown Land
Zephir St.Hilaire
Andrew Elkow
Zephir St.Hilaire
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Dmytro Gregory
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Harry Dowchuk
Nick Chomik
M. Mandrusiak
W. Harasiewko
Metro Eliuk
John Lakowski
Michael Ponich
Adam Andriowski
John M. Serna
Steve Nikiforuk
Tom Tataren
Fred Stephiuk
Nick Chomik
Mike Zawadiuk
Mary Eliuk
Metro Eluik
Nikkifor Eliuk
Alex Mandrusiak
Wm Eliuk
Nick Dowhaniuk
D. M. Gregory
Wm. Nikifurok
Paul Saoldan
Alex Elkow
Mary Zawadiuk
Alex Elkow
Wm. F. Elkow
Nickifor Elkow
Fred
John Forbes
Andrew Shwed
Dick Fife
Georgre Nikiforuk
Wm. Boyda
Nick Chomik
Wm. J. Elkow
Wm. Elkow